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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## NCO's complaint: Sex, booze and a beanbag

'Stupid' shooting, violations cited during Special Forces unit's Afghanistan deployment

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

A Green Beret who fired on a civilian truck in Afghanistan showed "horribly poor judgment" during a deployment in which officers let soldiers drink alcohol and have sex in violation of military rules, the team's enlisted leader stated in an Army investigation report.

A video montage that showed an American soldier firing a shotgun into the driver's window of an Afghan cargo truck was posted online late last year, stirring controversy and prompting military officials to promise a thorough investigation.

Though Army investigators found no wrongdoing, an investigative report obtained by Stars and Stripes reveals new details, including allegations of "toxic

team members and failures in discipline and professionalism that carried over into operations, leading to the shooting, which the team's senior noncommissioned officer called "stupid."

The incident came as some officials have questioned whether the military is relying too much on special operations units and raised concerns about the strain of frequent deployments on the elite forces.

Officials found no probable cause to believe there was a killing or violation of the rules of engagement, the Army's Criminal Investigation Command said in May.

A soldier had fired a nonlethal beanbag round into the truck after its driver ignored several warnings not to encroach on a U.S. convoy, officials said.

**SEE SHOOTING ON PAGE 4**



## Lawmakers prod DOD to base more troops in Europe

Defense planning bill urges Pentagon to study sending a brigade to Poland

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Sgt. Samuel Benton of the 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, mentors soldiers during an exercise with Battle Group Poland in Olecko, Poland, in May.

HUBERT D. DELANY III/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

## PACIFIC

# Images show N. Korea dismantling key test site

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

North Korea has taken "an important first step" toward fulfilling a promise made during its summit with the United States by starting to dismantle a key missile testing site, a monitoring website said Monday.

The report came as President Donald Trump said he was "very happy" with progress in relations with the North. He pointed out the communist state hasn't conducted a missile test in months.

Commercial satellite images show key facilities, including the rocket engine test stand, being razed at the Sohae Satellite Launching Station, according to 38 North. The complex north of the capital, Pyongyang, has been used to develop technologies for the North's intercontinental ballistic missile program and therefore the dismantling represents "a significant confidence building measure," according to the analysis by defense expert Joseph Bermudez Jr.

The report comes amid concern about the North's true intentions as the June 12 summit in Singapore yielded no specific commitments or timelines.

Trump said at the time that Kim had agreed to destroy a missile engine testing site in addition to his general commitment to the "complete denuclearization" of the Korean Peninsula.

According to 38 North, satellite images from Friday showed the roof and supporting structure partially removed from the launch-mounted processing structure for the rail-pa and numerous vehicles were present, including a large crane.

Two days later, images showed one corner of the structure had been completely dismantled and parts were scattered on

the ground, the website said.

It noted, however, that the main processing building and gantry tower remained intact.

The vertical engine test stand superstructure also has been completely dismantled, leaving on the base, "which is also in the process of being removed," 38 North said, citing images from Sunday.

"Given the state of activity, work is likely to have begun sometime within the past two weeks," it said.

North Korea has insisted Sohae was only for developing satellites, but U.S. officials suspect it has also been used to perfect ICBM technology as the communist state sought to develop a nuclear weapon that could target the U.S. mainland.

The Trump administration has maintained optimism about the diplomatic process aimed at persuading the North to abandon its nuclear weapons program, insisting there's "no rush" to reach a final deal.

Analysts, however, have expressed skepticism that the North is willing to give up its hard-won nuclear weapons.

The diplomatic offensive has tamped down tensions after fears of nuclear war rose last year as the communist state demonstrated strong advances with a series of missile launches and its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

The North suspended long-range missile tests and blew up its main nuclear testing site as goodwill gestures. The U.S., meanwhile, canceled military exercises with the South that had been scheduled to begin next month.

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AYA ICHIHASHI/Stars and Stripes

Workers construct a shelter at a Japanese elementary school adjacent to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, on Tuesday.

## Okinawa builds shelters to protect children from falling aircraft parts

By AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Okinawa government is building shelters to protect schoolchildren from falling aircraft parts near an American military base in Japan's southernmost prefecture.

"There will be four emergency shelters — two at playgrounds and two at other locations," Okinawa Defense Bureau spokesman Masashi Katsuren said Tuesday.

One of the shelters is now under construction at Futenma Daini Elementary School on the northern side of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

In December, a 3-foot-by-3-foot window fell from a Marine CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter onto the school's playground where dozens of students were taking a physical education class. A boy sustained a minor injury on the back of his hand from a small stone that was sent airborne, but no other injuries or damage were reported.

Earlier that month, a plastic part thought to belong to a U.S. military helicopter was found on the roof of a nearby nursery school.

The elementary school closed its play-

ground until February. Since then, Okinawa Defense Bureau staff have watched for aircraft and ushered children indoors when they spot them nearby. They've cleared the playground 25 times in July, the spokesman said.

The Okinawa Times newspaper reported 216 evacuations over 28 days in February and March.

At Futenma Daini Kindergarten, next to the elementary school, kids played outside on Tuesday while builders worked on the shelter.

"We are somewhat relieved that with two shelters in the playground, we can shorten the evacuation time and resume the physical education class quickly," the elementary school's vice principal, Kenji Arakawa, told Stars and Stripes.

"Construction of the two shelters at the playground is due to finish before students return from summer vacation" in September, he said.

Students still get worried when aircraft fly overhead, Arakawa said.

"Most of all they feel stress about all the evacuations and cuts to physical education and recess," he said.

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# PACIFIC

# Soldiers train for war at Lightning Forge

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

KAHUKU TRAINING AREA,  
Hawaii

**W**earing black and green face grease, Lt. Col. James Hart summed up the task at hand for his soldiers: a few days into the Lightning Forge exercise.

"It's a cat-and-mouse game in continuing to find the enemy and, once you find him, kill him," Hart, commander of 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, said Sunday while standing beside one of the dirt roads winding through the 9,000-acre Kahuku Training Area in northern Oahu, Hawaii.

The terrain of this rugged, jungle-shrouded training area leaves plenty of places for those nice to hide. The ravines and dirt roads are walled on both sides by steep, soaring mountain slopes.

It's in this terrain that the 25th Division's 2nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team is honing its skills using blanks and simulated munitions in preparation for a rotation this fall to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.

"We're testing ourselves now to get ready for the test," said Col. Joel Vowell, the division's deputy commander of operations.

The division's 2nd and 3rd combat brigades alternate each year as the core unit tested during the annual exercise, but practically the entire 25th is involved in the two-week drills in some way.

"Very few people in the 25th are doing anything else but this," said Col. Sean Berg, commander of the 196th Infantry Brigade. "They are either supporting it or participating in it."

The 196th manages the Joint Pacific Multinational Readiness Capability, which employed software and hardware linking the exercise battle space with off-site observers at Schofield Barracks in Honolulu. The software collects and stores information about the performance and exact whereabouts of each soldier. It's then used for feedback, even as the exercise progresses.

Lt. Col. Phil Mundweil was in command of the exercise's "enemy" forces Sunday, defending a mock town built near a Kahuku vista. A full-on assault was expected within the next 24 hours.

"What you probably saw driving in was that on both sides is nothing but trees and bushes, very tight, and then steep mountains on both sides," said Mundweil, who usually commands a 3rd Brigade battalion.

He and his defenders were taking advantage of the fact that so few routes of attack are passable in this terrain. They had laid obstacles, such as rows of concertina wire, and dug in riflemen in certain routes to funnel or "canalize," the advancing force to where they wanted them.

"We're going to fight them where we want to fight them — or at least create the conditions so we can fight them where we want to fight them," Mundweil said.

The Hawaii-based Army Re-



PHOTOS BY MARCUS FICHT/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Kornisha Sutton, of the 65th Brigade Engineer Battalion, prepares to put up an antenna during the Lightning Forge exercise at Kahuku Training Area, Hawaii, on Sunday.



Above: Medics tend to simulated casualties during the exercise. Right: Pfc. Zack Renfro, an infantryman with 1st Battalion, 21st Infantry Regiment, mans his truck's gun.



serve 100th Battalion was among the troops he commanded to defend the town.

Joining the 2nd Brigade for training this year is the Indiana National Guard's 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment. The Indiana battalion was integrated with Tropic Lightning's 2nd Brigade in 2016 under the Army's new Associated Unit program, which links certain Reserve and National Guard units with active-duty ones.

Vowell said the Indiana battalion serves as a "round-out" for the 2nd Brigade, which has two infantry battalions instead of the usual three associated with brigade combat teams.

"It's a pretty big deal," Vowell said of the inclusion of the Indiana troops. "It's been a growing relationship for about two years now, and we've sent people to Camp Atterbury in Indiana to link up to them and do some



training on the individual level." The Indiana battalion will also join its Hawaiian counterparts for the JRTC rotation this fall, he said.

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Above: Pfc. Joseph Natividad, a mortarman with the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, aims his mortar at opposing forces. Above left: An artilleryman runs ammo.



## MILITARY

Shooting:  
Video used  
to promote  
clothing line

## FRONT FRONT PAGE

The investigation report includes sworn statements from most of the 12-member team, though the names of the members and two other Green Berets interviewed in late January at Joint Forces Training Base in Los Alamitos, Calif., were redacted.

Part of the California National Guard's Company A, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne), the 12-man team deployed to Afghanistan in late 2016. The shooting occurred sometime in January or February 2017 near Bagram Air Field, officials said.

The shot through the window may have been the only way to get the driver's attention, the team's commander, a captain, told an investigator. The driver ignored small flares and other warnings, he said.

The captain assessed the driver as "fine" after the incident and said if the shooting had resulted in a death, locals would have complained on social media. Coalition forces "conducting vile acts (with) no repercussions."

Claims of alcohol  
use, adultery

A master sergeant who was the team's operations sergeant and senior NCO on the deployment, however, raised concerns about violations of standard operating procedures and questioned the shot placement, calling it "horribly poor judgment" to fire into the window.

"Even the civilian vehicle was trying to disrupt or enter into our convoy, ignored pen flares as warnings, a shot to the metal door could achieve the same message without putting the civilian driver at risk of injury," he said.

Even before the deployment, Special Forces teams — known as Operational Detachment Alphas, or ODAs — and several deployments, the master sergeant described having his authority subverted by fellow NCOs because he had taken a stand against allowing soldiers to violate General Order No. 1, which prohibits alcohol use and sex, in Afghanistan.

The team's commander and assistant commander permitted the violations, he alleged, and let at least two soldiers carry on extramarital affairs at Bagram.

Adultery is also a military law violation carrying a maximum punishment of one year of confinement, a dishonorable discharge and financial penalties.

"Through the deployment, I had to deal with toxic individuals who undermined my authority because they were being protected by the ODA officers," he said. "This behavior spilled over into our operations, with poor decision-making by these individuals and those on the ODA negatively



YouTube

This screen grab from video shows a U.S. soldier firing a shotgun at a truck in Afghanistan.

influenced by them."

One team member risked exposing Special Forces techniques and "practices used worldwide" by allowing an Afghan to take a vehicle wired with electronic surveillance systems to a local repair shop near Bagram, the team sergeant said. The team member left the vehicle at the shop for 30 days and then lied to cover it up, he said.

'Toxic, negative  
influence'

The incident with the shotgun was another symptom of that dysfunction, the team sergeant said.

Investigators found that during the deployment, the team had been issued one Benelli M1 Super 90 shotgun matching the description of the weapon in the video, hundreds of slugs and door-breaching shells and dozens of nonlethal M1013 crowd-dispersal rounds filled with rubber balls. Beanbag rounds were not mentioned on the weapons list.

A sergeant first class unilaterally added use of the shotgun and nonlethal rounds to the team's procedures, the master sergeant said. That sergeant first class often did whatever he wanted, regardless of regulations, and "has a long history of discipline issues and has been a toxic, negative influence" on the team, the master sergeant added.

"The ODA will perpetually have discipline issues and violate security clearance regulations because people are no longer held accountable when others only care about numbers over quality of individuals," the master sergeant said in his sworn statement.

Other team members defended the use of the shotgun, offering context that had been lacking from the online video, which was titled "Happy Few Ordnance Symphony" and featured just one two-second clip of the shooting among dozens of other clips of combat footage.

Believed to have been shot by a team member who frequently wore a GoPro camera, the brief clip shows what looks like helmet-mounted camera footage of a gunner in an RG33 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle turret firing the shotgun, shattering the driver's side window just before

the montage cuts away.

The driver had been swerving in and out of a convoy of U.S. and Afghan vehicles on the main north-south road through Parwan province for more than a mile and had ignored verbal and hand signals, blaring horns, pen flares, flash-bang grenades and attempts to run him off the road, soldiers said in sworn statements.

The team's intelligence sergeant, who said he saw the truck's brake lights come on and the vehicle come to a stop along the roadside after the shooting, said he would have followed the same escalation-of-force procedures.

"If placed in the same situation, I would have taken the same actions: pen flare, flash-bangs, less lethal, lethal," he said. "These steps are used to mitigate collateral damage to the locals and to protect the lives of American soldiers and their partner forces."

Car bombs were being moved from Tagab district in nearby Kapisa province into and through Bagram for use in attacking U.S. convoys at the time, the intelligence sergeant said. A similar truck had been used in an attack on a joint coalition and Afghan base.

Video promotes  
a clothing company

Some of the video's other combat footage appears to have come from part of the deployment when five Green Berets, including two connected to the video, were sent to augment a second team fighting Islamic State in Nangarhar province.

A junior weapons sergeant who would have been the gunner in the turret likely took much of the footage. Some also recalled viewing the truck shooting video on

his laptop. He and another team member had started a clothing company the video had been used to promote online.

The junior weapons sergeant invoked his rights to remain silent and to have an attorney present, but investigators obtained Google and Facebook data that linked logins to the clothing company's online accounts to areas near the soldier's home.

The master sergeant said he felt he had failed the junior weapons sergeant by not ensuring better leadership and mentorship on the deployment.

"I saw the risks in keeping certain members of the ODA despite my instinct to replace them," he said. "I deployed with what I had to work with."

The master sergeant has since been replaced as operations sergeant, which he said was a result of his stance against sex and alcohol use. His successor told investigators that he instructed his soldiers not to post their military activities on social media.

An official with the California National Guard declined to answer questions about the allegations and referred inquiries to the Army's Criminal Investigation Command. A spokeswoman for the 19th Special Forces Group did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan said in a statement it would be inappropriate to comment on alleged events that occurred before the outfit's current leadership took command, but said all military, Defense Department civilians and contractors fall under General Order No. 1.

No one is exempt from GO #1, while in theater with SOJTF-A," the statement said.

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Transfers  
of F-35s to  
Turkey may  
be delayed

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Transfers to Turkey of Lockheed Martin Corp.'s F-35 would be barred temporarily under a compromise defense policy measure agreed to on Monday, according to House and Senate aides.

Turkish receipt of the fighter jets would be held back until the Pentagon submitted an assessment within 90 days of the measure's enactment on U.S.-Turkish relations, the impact of Turkey's planned acquisition of Russia's advanced S-400 missile defense system and the ramifications for the U.S. industrial base if Turkey is dropped from the international F-35 program.

The move, reflecting the tensions in U.S.-Turkish relations, is part of a \$717 billion defense policy bill for fiscal 2019 crafted by congressional negotiators that awaits final approval in the House and Senate. The measure also would hold back some funds for Defense Department cloud activities and cut \$1 billion off a policy bill for fiscal 2019 crafted by congressional negotiators that awaits final approval in the House and Senate. The measure also would hold back some funds for Defense Department cloud activities and cut \$1 billion off a policy bill for fiscal 2019 crafted by congressional negotiators that awaits final approval in the House and Senate. The measure also would hold back some funds for Defense Department cloud activities and cut \$1 billion off a policy bill for fiscal 2019 crafted by congressional negotiators that awaits final approval in the House and Senate.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis had warned Congress against cutting off transfers of the F-35. In a letter to lawmakers this month, Mattis said he agreed "with congressional concerns about the authoritarian drift in Turkey and its impact on human rights and rule of law." But he said an F-35 cutoff would risk triggering an international "supply chain disruption" that would drive up costs and delay deliveries of the fighter.

Under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Turkey plans to buy about 100 F-35s, joining the United Kingdom and Australia as the top international customers. At least 10 Turkish companies are building parts and components, such as the cockpit displays, for other partners, according to Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed.

The measure crafted by the House and Senate Armed Services committees also would let the president waive a requirement to impose sanctions on countries and entities doing business with Russia for as long as 180 days if the party involved is taking steps to distance itself from a commercial relationship with the Russian defense and intelligence sectors, according to committee aides and a Democratic summary of the bill.

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# WAR ON TERRORISM

# Taliban gain ground near Kabul after cease-fire

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

**KHAK-E-JABBAR DISTRICT, Afghanistan** — Adam Khan arrived at the governor's compound in this mountainous district near the Afghan capital recently to complain about Taliban advances in the area — the result, he said, of a U.S.-backed cease-fire by the Afghan government.

"It's frightening," Khan said, pointing from the elevated compound to his relatives' village about a mile away, where the Taliban are now active.

"They're asking people for food and money and to help them build a road on the mountain," he said. "I'm just a farmer. If they come to my village, I won't be able to help. Then what? Will they beat me? Will they kill me?"

Officials at the governor's compound, which houses modest police and army units, said Khan is among a steady stream of locals who have been lodging complaints about the tangible effects of President Ashraf Ghani's unilateral cease-fire, which ended on June 30 and has been widely lauded for helping advance the country's peace process.

They fear another truce, which the government is considering implementing next month, could help the Taliban take full control of the district and, in the words of one local, "create a battlefield on Kabul's doorstep."

Afghan and U.S. officials appear to believe it's a risk worth taking.

There have been unprecedented signs of progress toward peace negotiations this year — including Ghani's offer of unconditional talks and the Taliban's declaration in a recent open letter to the American people calling for dialogue.

Officials say they are committed to building on that progress, which reached a high when Afghan, U.S. and Taliban forces all ceased fighting over the three-day Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr last month, the first such truce in the nearly 17-year-old war.

Ghani extended the government's cease-fire by 10 days, hoping the Taliban would reciprocate, but they did not. Instead, locals say their fighters used the opportunity to extend control



**Left: Khak-e-Jabbar, Afghanistan, resident Adam Khan points to a village in the distance where the Taliban recently began to operate. Below: Army Gen. John Nicholson, left, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, and Army Gen. Joseph Votel, the commander of U.S. Central Command, speak to reporters in Kabul on Monday.**

PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes



**"I don't know if it was good for other areas, but for us, the cease-fire created this problem."**

**Miragha**  
tribal elder in Malik Khail village

over dozens of villages in Khak-e-Jabbar district about 25 miles from Kabul that they first entered during Eid.

"The Taliban came in, studied the landscape and then stayed here," tribal elder Miragha said at his home in Malik Khail village while hosting several guests for lunch. "We were shocked at how quickly they came; there are many of them."

Miragha, who like many Afghans uses only one name, said that the insurgents had been beating people whose relatives work for the government and security forces, telling them their relatives must quit their jobs. If the situation doesn't improve, many families would be forced to leave their homes, Miragha said, his guests nodding in agreement.

"I don't know if it was good for

other areas, but for us, the cease-fire created this problem," he added to more nods.

The Afghan Defense Ministry told Stars and Stripes that Khak-e-Jabbar was the only area where the recent cease-fire exacerbated the security situation, and that it was "paying serious attention to it." Several operations were launched in recent weeks to fight the insurgents, a ministry official said, but local police say their operations have been futile.

The government is considering another cease-fire in late August to coincide with another Islamic holiday, Shah Hussain Murtazawi, the president's deputy spokesman, told Stars and Stripes. He wouldn't specify whether another cease-fire without Taliban reciprocation was likely.

A spokesman for the insurgents this week said it was too early for the group to comment on any future cease-fire it might implement.

Speaking to reporters in Kabul on Monday, Gen. John Nicholson, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan, said that despite potential setbacks — like those being seen in Khak-e-Jabbar — the U.S. would comply with and welcome another truce by the Afghan government, even a unilateral one.

"Of course," the Taliban could take advantage of such a cease-fire, Nicholson said, "but the overall strategic objective of ad-

vancing the peace process, in our view, is worth the tactical risk."

Despite continuing violence across the country and a record number of civilian deaths, Nicholson said increasing prospects of peace talks with the Taliban show the U.S. strategy in Afghanistan is working.

"Some of these traditional metrics (for gauging the war's success) like levels of violence and population control, while still relevant and important, should not outweigh the importance of advancing the peace process," Nicholson said.

"This advancement towards peace is extremely relevant and, in a way, perhaps, more important than some of these other metrics."

Noor Rahman Haqpal, the deputy police commander for Khak-e-Jabbar district, said that while the government and its U.S. backers should be commended for pushing for peace, any unforeseen outcomes that occur along the way, like the current situation in his district, must be properly dealt with.

"If the central government doesn't pay enough attention to what is going on here, it's very clear there will be chaos," Haqpal said. "And not just here. Maybe in the future, it will spell trouble for the capital too."

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Partner of DERPART

# Afghan commandos kill 2 senior Taliban leaders

Associated Press

**KABUL, Afghanistan** — A military operation by Afghan commando units in northeastern Kapisa province left at least 12 insurgents dead, including a Taliban shadow governor and district chief, a security official said Tuesday.

Sharin Aqa Faqiri, army spokesman for northeast Afghanistan, said Mullah Nasim Musherfaq, the Taliban shadow governor for Kapisa, and Qari Eسانullah, shadow district chief for Tagab, were among those killed late Sunday night.

Faqiri said the senior Taliban

leaders were in a meeting when they came under attack by ground forces supported by aircraft in Tagab district.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, confirmed the attack in a statement, saying a number of Taliban, including the shadow governor and shadow district chief, were killed in the attack.

In the capital, Kabul, three people including a man and two children were wounded by a rocket that hit a home in the western part of the city, said Ghafor Azizi, 5th district city police chief.

Azizi said at least three rockets were fired from an unknown lo-

cation toward the city, with two of them striking a nearby mountain. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

In eastern Nangarhar province, four local security forces were shot and killed by Taliban insurgents, said Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor.

Khogyani said Taliban fighters wearing border police uniforms stopped the security forces' vehicle and then opened fire on them, killing them inside their vehicle in Nazyan district late Monday.

No one claimed responsibility for that attack, either, but both Taliban insurgents and Islamic

State affiliates are active in the province.

Meanwhile, in western Ghor province, gunmen kidnapped six people — a doctor, his driver and four university students, said Abdul Hai Khateby, spokesman for the governor. He said three of the abducted were women.

Khateby said the district doctor was on his way to the provincial capital of Ferroz Koh in an ambulance and picked up the university students who also wanted to go to Dawlat Yar district.

Local government officials and tribal elders are in negotiations to free the hostages, who are believed to be Taliban.

## PACIFIC

## Navy's 'Baby Hornets' make final flights

By MARCUS FICHT  
Stars and Stripes

**HONOLULU** — This month's Rim of the Pacific exercise in Hawaii will mark the end of the line for the Navy's "Baby Hornets."

Ten F/A-18C multirole supersonic combat jets on the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier will be traded for newer, larger F/A-18E Super Hornets in January, said Lt. Kevin Frattin, the "senior-junior" officer for Strike Fighter Squadron 34 out of Virginia Beach, Va.

"You're not going to see a Hornet on an aircraft carrier, at least with U.S. Navy painted on it, ever again," he said during a tour of the carrier Saturday.

Strike Fighter Squadron 34, known as the "Blue Blasters," traces its heritage back 75 years to an F6F Hellcat squadron aboard the USS Enterprise during World War II in the Pacific. It's the only operational Hornet squadron still flying, although another squadron that simulates enemy jets still flies the aircraft.

The jets are, perhaps, the most visible symbol of the American military might that the Navy has been showing off to visitors on the carrier.

The legacy Hornet, which some claim is nimbler and more agile than its replacement, will be missed by pilots, Frattin said.

"It's a lot of fun to fly," he said. "For some things we could do, we were the only ones who could do it."

### 'Showcasing America's might'

So far during RIMPAC, the Carl Vinson has hosted more than 200 distinguished



MARCUS FICHT/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** "Last RIMPAC 2018" is plastered onto the tail of an F/A-18C Hornet from Strike Fighter Squadron 34 aboard the USS Carl Vinson near Hawaii on Saturday. **Left:** The hangar of the USS Carl Vinson is seen off the coast of the Hawaiian Islands on Saturday.

visitors, Navy spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Hawkins said aboard the carrier Saturday.

"We are showcasing America's might, but we're also showcasing America's commitment ... to sustaining strong partnerships that we've had in the Indo-Pacific for a very long time," he said.

During RIMPAC, "America's Favorite Carrier" has acted as a seaward hub for navy leaders and dignitaries.

Each day, its wardrooms or officer's galley have bristled with brass and the flags of foreign nations.

The carrier hosted more than 8,000 people for tours on RIMPAC's opening week at

Pearl Harbor in late June.

"[The Carl Vinson] is a hub not only for our leadership of the carrier strike group but it's also a platform for hosting dignitaries and foreign leaders, explaining to them the Navy's mission and role," Hawkins said.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Callie Riley, 24, who works at the ship's store and helped sell \$40,000 worth of merchandise — mostly Zippo lighters — during a recent port call in Vietnam, has seen more foreign sailors during RIMPAC than most crewmembers.

"They're usually in here looking for

coins and other goodies," he said, pointing to racks of junk food and Navy ballcaps. "They're very interested in what we have to offer."

The Carl Vinson has been the go-to warship for the Navy in the Pacific with an extended deployment last year off the Korean Peninsula. In March, it became the first U.S. carrier to visit Vietnam since the war.

During RIMPAC, the ship hasn't been involved in much training and isn't hosting foreign sailors like the amphibious USS Bonhomme Richard, which has an Australian commodore, foreign marines and international staff on board.

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## USS Ronald Reagan returns to Yokosuka after 2-month patrol

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

**YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan** — The USS Ronald Reagan aircraft carrier and its strike group returned home to Yokosuka on Tuesday after a two-month patrol of the South, East and Philippine seas.

Rear Adm. Karl Thomas, who was sworn in as Task Force 70 commander last week, said the tough deployment was not lengthy, all goals for the mission were accomplished.

"We like to operate when we need to and where we need to," he said.

"We don't talk about future deployments, but the amount of time we were out allowed us to prepare and to train and to conduct exercises."

The Ronald Reagan left its homeport on May 29 after a two-week delay to repair a "material issue" discovered during sea trials earlier that month. Thomas said the delay did not affect the overall mission.

"We were a little bit late getting underway, but we still were able to conduct all the exercises we wanted to do," he said.

Those drills included Malabar 2018 early last month with the Indian Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force. The countries exchanged expert and professional information and practiced surface and anti-submarine warfare, medical operations, damage control and helicopter operations over the nine-day exercise, according to the Navy.

"Our presence out there is the most important thing so that we can sustain the

peace and security of the region," Thomas said.

The Ronald Reagan's commanding officer, Capt. Buzz Donnelly, said he was "proud of the crew," which is excited for a "short break this summer" in Yokosuka.

As the sailors disembarked, a crowd of eager family members sat in the blistering heat awaiting the moment their loved one would walk across the bridge from the carrier Tuesday morning.

While festivities included music, cold water, festive tents and handmade signs, the 91-degree temperature and 63 percent humidity caused at least one person to suffer heat exhaustion while awaiting a reunion.

Navy wife Rebecca Barlaan said her husband, Petty Officer 3rd Class Trenton Barlaan, was excited to find out he had won a "first kiss ticket," meaning he would be one of the first sailors off the carrier.

"It made my whole entire day," she said. "I think my husband was more excited than I was."

At 1,092 feet long, the Ronald Reagan is longer than the Eiffel Tower is tall and more than three times the height of the Statue of Liberty in length. More than 5,000 sailors serve aboard the ship.

The carrier and its strike group — which includes guided-missile cruisers, destroyers and the Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni-based Carrier Air Wing 5 — will undergo maintenance while in port. The Navy does not reveal when future deployments will take place.

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**Above:** The family of a USS Ronald Reagan sailor waits for his arrival at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Tuesday. **Left:** A sailor assigned to the Ronald Reagan greets his family after returning from a two-month patrol of the South, East and Philippine seas.

ALLEN ONSTOTT/  
Stars and Stripes

## MILITARY

# Lawmakers call for more troops in Europe

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon will have to consider increasing combat power in Europe and look at the feasibility of permanently stationing an Army brigade in Poland under a deal reached by House and Senate lawmakers.

A House and Senate panel agreed on Monday to a reconciled version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which could come up for a vote in the House as early as this week.

Overall, the bill calls for troop increases and acquisition of a wide range of new aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons. Lawmakers also want the Pentagon to review how it conducts advisory missions in places like Niger, where four U.S. soldiers were killed in October in an ambush.

For Europe, the NDAA calls out steps to counter and "if necessary, defeat Russian aggression."

The bill would mandate that President Donald Trump designate an official in the National Security Council to develop and oversee a strategy for fighting Russian "malign influence."

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis would be required to consider specific steps to "enhance U.S. forward presence, combat capability, and capacity in Europe."

The bill would require Mattis to examine the merits of putting an Army brigade combat team and combat enablers in Poland on a permanent basis.

With military circles, the idea of garrisoning U.S. troops in Poland is controversial. Warsaw



HUBERT D. DELANY III/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Sgt. Tabari Sibby, an infantryman with 1st Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, secures an area with other soldiers from his unit during a fire exercise at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, last month.**

is pushing hard for a larger and permanent U.S. presence and has offered up to \$2 billion to help offset the costs.

Already, the U.S. has rotational forces operating daily in Poland, including a battle group not far from the country's border with the Russian military enclave of Kaliningrad. In addition, an armored brigade and an Air Force detachment are all on year-round rotations in the country.

Still, supporters of a permanent

presence argue that basing troops in Poland would send a stronger deterrent signal to Russia. Opponents, however, worry that such a presence would cause divisions within NATO at a time when the alliance is already under political strain.

Moscow has described the deployments and repeated military exercises near the enclave as provocative.

Trump rattled member states earlier this month during a con-

tentious NATO summit in Brussels, where he warned allies that the U.S. would go it alone if they didn't increase defense expenditures. Also causing concern was his subsequent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin and public statements that called into question his commitment to defending smaller NATO member Montenegro.

However, the NDAA emphasizes U.S. commitment to NATO's collective defense, which law-

makers call "ironclad."

"The array of national security threats facing the United States is more complex and diverse than at any time since World War II," the NDAA says. "The strategic environment has not been this competitive since the Cold War. Simply put, America no longer enjoys the competitive edge it once had over its competitors and adversaries."

Other Europe-focused provisions in the NDAA call for adding \$205 million to procure 61 Bradley Fighting Vehicles for the European Deterrence Initiative, which funds operations along NATO's eastern flank.

The bill also authorizes \$250 million to provide security assistance to Ukraine, \$50 million of which would be set aside for defensive "lethal assistance."

Meanwhile, the bill means military operations in parts of Africa as well as other places such as Yemen could get a closer look as the Pentagon is required to examine the underlying legal rationale behind "advise, assist, and accompany missions by U.S. military personnel outside of Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan."

While U.S. troops have been operating in Niger and Somalia for years, the number of Americans in those countries has steadily increased without significant public debate over the scope and merits of the missions.

But the attack on U.S. soldiers in the Nigerian village of Tongo Tongo, brought into focus the risk U.S. forces face in isolated parts of Africa.

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## General: ISIS caliphate near end

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Islamic State's so-called caliphate has withered to the area around one small town in eastern Syria, which is surrounded by U.S.-backed forces set to begin operations to liberate it, a top anti-ISIS coalition general said Tuesday.

At least several hundred ISIS fighters remain to defend the area along the Euphrates River still controlled by the terrorist group, which includes the small town of Hajin, about 20 miles from the Iraq border, said French Brig. Gen. Frederic Parisot, the director of civil-military operations of the U.S.-led Operation Inherent Resolve coalition. He estimated a slow-moving operation led by Syrian Democratic Forces would take at least two to three months to complete and end the ISIS caliphate.

"That will be the end of any land owned by [ISIS] or ruled by [ISIS]," Parisot told reporters at the Pentagon. "We expect a tough fight in that last place ISIS is. The good news is they are trapped ... and we are going to kill them."

Since 2014, the coalition, along with SDF and Iraqi security forces, have methodically dismantled ISIS' caliphate, which stretched some 34,000 square miles across Syria and Iraq at its height and included as many 50,000 fighters, Pentagon officials have estimated.

ISIS now holds only about 190 square miles of ground, Parisot said Tuesday. He declined to provide a specific estimate of the remaining fighters aligned with ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

In addition to ISIS fighters around Hajin, which

has been held by the terrorist group since 2013, militants have gathered in small cells in Iraq and Syria. This makes it difficult to determine a definitive number of remaining ISIS fighters, Parisot said.

"One ISIS is one ISIS too many," he said. "This week, the SDF completed the liberation of the town of Dashiha in eastern Syria, one of the two towns identified by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis as still controlled by ISIS in April, when he pledged a renewed effort to destroy the terrorist group in Syria."

The SDF cleared ISIS fighters from some 745 square miles during operations to liberate Dashiha, according to the State Department, which congratulated the Kurdish-led group on its victory in Dashiha on Sunday in a statement.

"This is a significant milestone," the statement read.

Parisot said he expected heavy fighting as the SDF begins its operations to clear Hajin. Like in other cities once held by ISIS, the general anticipates the town will be heavily fortified with improvised explosives and booby traps.

Freeing Hajin will mark the end of ISIS' caliphate, Parisot said, but that will not necessarily signal the end of the military mission in Iraq and Syria for the United States and the coalition, which will continue to train fighters in the region and work to clear liberated areas of explosives and other threats.

"There is still work to be done," he said. "It's still going to take some time to ensure they can't come back."

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## Naval Academy charges midshipman in drug probe

By BRIAN WITTE  
Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — The U.S. Naval Academy announced Tuesday it is bringing charges against a midshipman who allegedly distributed illegal drugs, including cocaine.

The charges include failure to obey a general regulation, making a false official statement and possession of illegal substances, said Cmdr. David McKinney, an academy spokesman. The charges also include possession of illegal substances with intent to distribute, use of illegal substances and distribution of illegal substances.

An Article 32 hearing, which is similar to a civilian grand jury proceeding, was scheduled for Wednesday before a military court at the Washington Navy Yard to help determine whether the case should proceed to a court-martial, McKinney said.

The charges are based on an investigation by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service that began in November. The results were sent to Vice Adm. Ted Carter, the

academy's superintendent, who decided to recommend the charges against the accused, who was not named in a news release from the academy.

As a result of the investigation, six midshipmen have been kicked out of the academy for using illegal substances, McKinney said. Another five midshipmen were administratively disciplined for drug-related violations. The illicit drugs involved were cocaine, ecstasy, ketamine and hallucinogenic mushrooms.

"The United States Navy and the Naval Academy both have a zero tolerance policy when it comes to the use of illegal substances and take all allegations of misconduct seriously," McKinney said.

Some of the charges related to an arrest by the Dover Police Department for selling and possessing controlled substances, McKinney said.

When Carter updated the academy's Board of Visitors about the investigation in April, he said midshipmen brought the drug use to the attention of school officials.



## NATION



EBRAHIM NORDOZI/AP

A woman shops at the old main bazaar in Tehran, Iran, on Monday.

# Iran 'unimpressed' after Trump steps up pressure

BY MATTHEW LEE AND ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's explosive Twitter threat to Iran's leader comes as his administration is ratcheting up a pressure campaign on the Islamic republic that many suspect is aimed at regime change.

No one is predicting imminent war. But Trump's bellicose, all-caps challenge addressed to President Hasan Rouhani followed a speech by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in which he accused Iran's leadership of massive corruption and widespread rights abuses and urged Iranians to rise up in protest.

Both the tweet and the speech landed less than two weeks before the administration will begin reimposing sanctions on Iran that had been lifted under the 2015 nuclear deal. In the meantime, the U.S. is stepping up Farsi language outreach that is intended to support Iranians demonstrating against the policies of their government.

Trump's tweet doesn't appear to have been prompted by any notable shift in rhetoric from Iran.

It could have been an impulsive reaction to reports from Tehran quoting Rouhani as giving the U.S. an oft-repeated reminder that conflict with Iran would be "the mother of all wars." Yet animosity directed at the Iranian leadership is an established part of the administration's broader foreign policy.

Iran publicly shrugged off Trump's late Sunday message — "NEVER EVER THREATEN THE UNITED STATES AGAIN OR YOU WILL SUFFER CONSEQUENCES THE LIKES OF WHICH FEW THROUGHOUT HISTORY HAVE EVER SUFFERED BEFORE."

Tweeted Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday: "COLOR US UNIMPRESSED:

The world heard even harsher bluster a few months ago. And Iranians have heard them — albeit more civilized ones — for 40 yrs. We've been around for millennia & seen fall of empires, incl our own, which lasted more than the life of some countries. BE CAUTIOUS!"

Asked at the White House if he had concerns about provoking Iran, Trump said simply, "None at all."

Tehran is already aware of what is coming from the administration as consequences of Trump's May withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear accord take shape.

As Pompeo noted in his speech to Iranian-Americans and others in California on Sunday, the centerpiece will be the reimposition of U.S. economic sanctions. The first batch will go back into force Aug. 4, targeting the Iranian automotive sector and trade in gold and other metals. A more significant set of sanctions that will hit Iran's oil industry and central bank by punishing countries and companies that do business with them will resume Nov. 4.

"Right now, the United States is undertaking a diplomatic and financial pressure campaign to cut off the funds that the regime uses to enrich itself and support death and destruction," Pompeo said in his speech at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum in Simi Valley.

Pompeo also slammed Iran's political, judicial and military officials, accusing several by name of participating in rampant corruption, and called its religious leaders "hypocritical holy men" who amassed wealth while allowing their people to suffer. He said the government has "heartlessly repressed its own people's human rights, dignity and fundamental freedoms," and he hailed the "proud Iranian people (for) not staying silent about their government's many abuses."

April as part of a criminal probe of his business practices.

Barbara Jones, a court-appointed lawyer and former Manhattan federal judge helping to decide which of the seized files are protected by privilege, said in a court filing that prosecutors received the recordings on Friday after attorneys for Trump, Cohen and the Trump Organization dropped privilege claims.

The same day, Trump attorney

Rudy Giuliani said Cohen had recorded a conversation in which the president had discussed a potential payment to squash the story of a former Playboy model who said she had an affair with Trump.

Giuliani said the brief recording shows Trump did nothing wrong.

"The transaction that Michael is talking about on the tape never took place, but what's important is: If it did take place, the president said it

# Officials critical of Trump may lose their security clearances

BY JILL COLVIN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is considering revoking the security clearances of six former top national security officials who have been critical of his administration, a move that opponents and experts say would be an unprecedented politicization of the clearance process.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Monday that the president is "exploring the mechanisms" to strip clearance from former CIA Director John Brennan as well as five other former officials who have held some of the most sensitive positions in government: former FBI Director Jim Comey; James Clapper, the former director of national intelligence; former CIA Director Michael Hayden; former national security adviser Susan Rice; and Andrew McCabe, who served as Trump's deputy FBI director until he was fired in March.

The leaders have served in both Democratic and Republican administrations, including Trump's.

Sanders accused the officials of having "politicized" in some cases monetized their public service and security clearances" by making "baseless accusations" that the Trump administration had improper contact with Russia or was influenced by Russia.

"The fact that people with security clearances are making these baseless charges provides inappropriate legitimacy to accusations without true evidence," she said.

Sanders did not cite specific comments made by any of the officials. But the president has been seething over the backlash to his meeting last week with Russia's Vladimir Putin and the ongoing investigations into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election, whether his campaign aides were involved in the effort and whether he obstructed justice.

Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, of California, a ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, tweeted that "politicizing security clearances to retaliate against former national security officials who criticize the President would set a terrible new precedent. An enemies



ALEX BRANDON/AP

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks during Monday's briefing at the White House.

list is ugly, undemocratic and un-American."

The threat to deny the officials access to classified information marks the latest escalation in the president's ongoing war with the members of the U.S. intelligence community. It came hours after Republican Sen. Rand Paul, of Kentucky, tweeted that he would be meeting with Trump to discuss revoking Brennan's clearance for his scathing criticism of the president's performance at the summit with Putin.

Former CIA directors and other top national security officials are typically allowed to keep their clearances, at least for some period, as a courtesy and so they can be in a position to advise their successors. At least two of the former officials, McCabe and Comey, do not currently have security clearances.

Experts appeared split on whether the president has the authority to unilaterally terminate a security clearance but said such a move would be unprecedented and ill-advised.

While standing next to Putin, Trump last week openly questioned his own intelligence agencies' conclusions that Moscow tried to tip the scales of the 2016 election in his favor and seemed to accept Putin's insistence that Russia's hands were clean.

Brennan slammed those comments as "nothing short of treasonous" and accused Trump of being "wholly in the pocket of Putin."

Paul, in turn, called Brennan "the most biased, bigoted, over-the-top, hyperbolic sort of unhinged director of the CIA we've ever had" in an interview on Fox News.

# Dozen seized audio files sent to prosecutors in Cohen investigation

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A dozen audio recordings seized by the FBI from President Donald Trump's former lawyer, Michael Cohen, were forwarded to federal prosecutors after lawyers dropped challenges on attorney-client privilege grounds, a former judge revealed Monday.

The recordings were among millions of files taken from Cohen in

has to be done correctly and it has to be done by check" to keep a proper record of it, Giuliani said.

In a weekend tweet, Trump called Cohen's practice of recording conversations "totally unheard of & perhaps illegal."

Attorney Lanny Davis, speaking on Cohen's behalf, said what is on the tape will not harm Cohen.

Cohen has not been charged with a crime.



Cohen

## NATION

## Senate confirms Wilkie as new VA secretary

By CLAUDIA GRISALES  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday night confirmed Robert Wilkie to lead the Department of Veterans Affairs, marking the latest chapter for the federal government's second-largest agency, which is embroiled in controversy, volatility and lingering vacancies.

Wilkie, 55, has served as the Defense Department undersecretary of personnel and readiness and was considered a safe choice for the job after President Donald Trump dismissed previous VA secretary David Shulkin earlier this year and tried to replace him with Rear Adm. Ronny Jackson, a White House doctor who quickly became caught up

in controversy and flamed out as a candidate for the job.

As a result, the massive agency has been without a permanent secretary since March 28, when Trump fired Shulkin barely a year after a nearly unanimous Senate confirmed him for the job.

"We have the chance to fix the problems that we've had and make [the VA] better," Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., chairman the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, said ahead of Monday night's vote. "We owe it to our veterans no less than the best secretary ... Robert Wilkie."

The Senate confirmed Wilkie's nomination with an 86-to-9 vote, with only Democrats opposing him. Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., was the only senator to vote against

Wilkie when he easily won nearly unanimous approval July 10 from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. Since the VA became a Cabinet-level department in 1989, there have been nine secretaries. All of them were unanimously approved by the Senate.

That changed Monday after Sanders, along with Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.; Kamala Harris, D-Calif.; Ron Wyden, D-Ore.; Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.; Cory Booker, D-N.J.; Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass.; Ed Markey, D-Mass.; and Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., voted against Wilkie. Five senators were not present Monday evening and did not vote: Sens. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, Richard Burr, R-N.C., Bob Corker, R-

Tenn.; John Kennedy, R-La.; and John McCain, R-Ariz.

During Wilkie's confirmation hearing, Sanders expressed concerns that Trump was attempting to slowly erode VA resources and send more money into the private sector. In response, Wilkie said he believed the VA should be central to veterans' health care.

Wilkie has decades of military policymaking experience on Capitol Hill, the Pentagon and White House, but the new VA secretary must lead an agency in the midst of turbulent times marked by turnover and instability while guiding health care for the U.S. veteran population. The agency comprises more than 375,000 workers and has an annual budget of nearly \$200 billion.

"We still have much work ahead of us as we strive to ensure our nation's veterans receive the benefits and care they deserve, and I know we will work together to continue to deliver on the promises this country has made to the men and women who served," said Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Congress recently passed the VA Mission Act, a \$52 billion package of reforms that need to be carried out during the next year. The agency is also implementing changes to veterans' education benefits and working on a multi-billion-dollar project to overhaul its electronic health record.

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## Porn actress' husband files for divorce

By SAMANTHA SCHMIDT  
The Washington Post

Stormy Daniels' husband has filed for divorce, accusing the adult-film actress of adultery and asking for sole custody of their 7-year-old daughter, according to court documents.

Daniels and her husband, heavy-metal drummer and adult film actor Glendon Crain, have been married since November 2015, according to the divorce petition. They were living together outside Dallas until July 11, the day before she was arrested at an Ohio strip club and accused of illegally touching patrons. Those charges were later dismissed.

Crain also sought and was granted a temporary restraining order against Daniels, whose legal fight over an alleged decade-old affair with President Donald Trump has turned her into a celebrity.

While Crain filed the divorce petition last week, Daniels' lawyer, Michael Avenatti, addressed the couple's separation on Twitter Monday.

"My client Stormy Daniels and her husband Glen have decided to end their marriage," Avenatti



MARY ALTFER/AP

Adult film actress Stormy Daniels speaks outside federal court in New York on April 16.

wrote, saying the accuracy of the divorce petition "is vehemently disputed."

"Stormy's daughter remains her number one priority," the lawyer said. "She kindly asks for privacy for the sake of her family."

But hours later, Daniels tweeted that, in fact, she does not "need or want privacy."

"I want truth. And it will come out. I'm not afraid," tweeted Daniels, whose legal name is Stephanie Clifford.

Crain's 13-page divorce petition states the couple's marriage "has become insupportable because of

discord or conflict of personalities," according to the documents published online by the Smoking Gun.

Daniels, who is currently traveling the country for a series of strip club performances, had purchased a plane ticket for her daughter to join her on tour, Crain said in the divorce petition.

This will involve the child being on her tour bus with other adult performers and producers," the petition states. "This will place my child in imminent threat of serious and immediate physical or emotional harm."

## Trump: Russia to push for Dems in midterms

By FELICIA SONMEZ  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump on Tuesday claimed, without evidence, that the Kremlin will support Democrats in the November midterms, debuting a new line on Russian interference as the up-or over his shifting stances on the issue enters its second week.

Trump made the claim in a late-morning tweet eight days after he held a joint news conference in Helsinki with President Vladimir Putin at which the Russian leader himself acknowledged that he had wanted Trump to win in 2016.

"I'm very concerned that Russia will be fighting very hard to have an impact on the upcoming Election," Trump said in his Tuesday tweet. "Based on the fact that no President has been tougher on Russia than me, they will be pushing very hard for the Democrats. They definitely don't want Trump."

The U.S. intelligence community has concluded that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election and that the effort was specifically aimed at helping Trump win. On July 16 in Hel-

sinki, Putin said he had wanted Trump in the White House because he thought U.S.-Russia ties would benefit.

"Yes, I did. Yes, I did. Because he talked about bringing the U.S.-Russia relationship back to normal," Putin said when asked whether he had wanted Trump to win the 2016 election.

In a statement after that summit, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats reaffirmed the intelligence community's findings and warned of Russia's "ongoing, pervasive efforts to undermine our democracy."

Days later, a Microsoft executive said the company had discovered a spear-phishing campaign by Russian military intelligence targeting at least three candidates in this year's elections.

Since defending Putin in Helsinki and publicly doubting the U.S. intelligence community's findings, Trump has issued a stream of clarifications, corrections and conflicting statements that have prompted criticism from Democrats as well as members of his own party.

## NJ puts marijuana cases on hold

Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — New Jersey's attorney general has announced an immediate adjournment of all marijuana cases in municipal courts statewide until at least September.

The decision was included in a letter state Attorney General Gurbir Grewal sent Tuesday to municipal prosecutors in the state. It asked them to seek an adjournment until Sept. 4 — or later — of any matter "involving a marijuana-related offense pending in municipal court," a move that will allow the attorney general's office time to develop "appropri-

ate guidance" for prosecutors.

Grewal said he plans to convene a working group of criminal justice stakeholders to study the issue and advise him on possible solutions. He intends to issue a statewide directive by the end of next month concerning the scope and "appropriate use of prosecutorial discretion" in marijuana-related offenses in municipal court.

Grewal's letter did not say if arrests for marijuana possession would also be put on hold, and authorities declined comment on that issue Tuesday.

The letter was first reported by New Jersey Advance Media.

## Judge postpones Manafort trial until next week

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday postponed the trial of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort until next week.

The tax and bank fraud trial had been scheduled to start Wednesday in federal court in Alexandria, Va. But U.S. District Judge T.S. Ellis III pushed back the trial until July 31 to give Manafort's lawyers more time to review thousands of pages of data and documents turned over by special counsel Robert Mueller's office.

The documents come from a

firm that handled Manafort's bookkeeping and the electronic devices of Rick Gates, his longtime business associate. Gates pleaded guilty earlier this year and is expected to testify against Manafort.

The trial will be the first arising from Mueller's investigation into potential coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 presidential election.

The indictment against Manafort doesn't focus on his work on the Trump campaign or accuse him of being involved

in election interference. Instead, it accuses him of funneling the proceeds of Ukrainian political consulting work through offshore accounts and using the funds to pay for a lavish lifestyle.

Manafort has pleaded not guilty and denied all the charges. He faces a separate trial in the District of Columbia, where he was indicted last October.

In addition to pushing back the trial, Ellis on Monday approved and unsealed requests from Mueller's prosecutors to offer immunity to five witnesses in exchange for their testimony.

## NATION

# Duck boat probe to check if rules were violated

By JIM SALTER  
and HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH  
Associated Press

The investigation into the sinking of a sightseeing boat that claimed 17 lives will look at whether operators violated Coast Guard rules by venturing onto a Missouri lake as thunderstorms rolled in, a Coast Guard official said Monday.

More than three days after the deadly accident, a crane attached to a barge pulled the amphibious duck boat from Table Rock Lake near Branson, where it was submerged in 80 feet of water.

Divers attached a sling to the 33-foot, 4-ton vessel, then raised and drained it, officials said. It was to be loaded onto a vehicle and turned over to the National Transportation Safety Board.

Coast Guard Lt. Tasha Sadowicz, of the agency's St. Louis office, said the boat that capsized and sank was known as "Stretch Duck 07." Like all 22 duck boats in operation in Branson, it was required to undergo annual inspections. The most recent was in February.

But Sadowicz said the Coast Guard's "certificate of inspection" placed limits on when the boats can enter the water based on wind speed and "sea state," which refers to the height of waves.

Sadowicz did not have informa-

tion on Stretch Duck 07's limits but said they will be a focal point of the investigation.

Some witnesses have said the lake was calm and the storm came up suddenly Thursday evening. Sadowicz said investigators want to find out if operators were adequately monitoring the weather and should have reasonably known a storm was approaching.

Turbulent weather has caused trouble for duck boats before.

Coast Guard records show that a similar duck boat in Philadelphia took on a 3- or 4-foot wave on Oct. 3, 2015, as it carried 12 passengers on a tour of the Delaware River. Water got into the engine compartment, causing the engine to stall and setting the vessel adrift.

The boat was safely towed to shore. The cause of the failure was determined to be "the rapidly worsening river conditions." But the Coast Guard also cited a "failure to anticipate the change in the weather conditions."

"The change of the tide from slack to flood and the strong northerly winds caused the waves to quickly build and exceeded the restriction on the vessel's COI (certificate of inspection)," the Coast Guard report stated.

Duck boats were designed for military use in World War II. The Missouri boat that sank was built in 1944.



NATHAN PAPES, THE SPRINGFIELD (Mo.) NEWS-LEADER/AP

**The duck boat that sank in Table Rock Lake in Branson, Mo., was raised Monday. The boat went down Thursday evening after a thunderstorm generated near-hurricane strength winds.**

Stretch Duck 07 had a few apparently minor problems in recent years.

In 2011, the vessel "lost steering while underway on Table Rock Lake" with 30 passengers on board. The driver was able to make it back to shore, according to Coast Guard records.

On June 6, 2015, water got into the engine compartment as the boat entered the lake from land, a process known as "splash down." A January 2016 inspection found inoperable heat detectors, which were later fixed.

The Coast Guard prohibited the vessel from operating from January 2015 to April 2015, but the report does not state a reason other than "hazardous/unsafe condition." Another report from February 2015 cited leakage in a wheel

well caused by sealant failure.

The owner of an inspection service in the St. Louis area said he issued a written report in August 2017 to the Branson duck boat operator, Ripley Entertainment, after inspecting two dozen boats. In the report, Steve Paul, of Test Drive Technologies, explained that the vessels' engines — and pumps that remove water from their hulls — might fail in inclement weather.

At a news conference Monday in Branson, Coast Guard Capt. Scott Stoermer said the investigation will also look into whether the boat captain followed company guidelines regarding use of life jackets.

Missouri law requires boat passengers ages 7 and younger to wear life jackets, but commercial

vessels such as the duck boats are exempt. The law requires enough life jackets for passengers and crew, and jackets that fit all of the children.

Several survivors made it to safety by climbing aboard another sightseeing boat that was nearby.

Ripley Entertainment's website said it was offering to pay for all medical and funeral expenses for victims, to return all personal items from the accident scene and to help with families' travel or accommodations. The company also said it was offering grief counseling for its own employees.

Nine of the people who died belonged to one Indiana family. Others killed came from Missouri, Arkansas and Illinois. The dead included five children. Fourteen people survived.

## Dogs displaced by Hawaii volcano find homes on Maui

Associated Press

WAILUKU, Hawaii — Animal rescue groups and volunteer pilots are finding new homes on Maui for dogs displaced by the Kilauea volcano eruption on the Big Island.

The Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation has taken in about 80 dogs from the Big Island, finding

homes for almost all of the pets, The Maui News reported Sunday.

Most of the rescued dogs have been given up by people whose homes were destroyed by lava flows, said Dawn Hall, the organization's executive director.

"For a lot of these folks, because the shelters for humans are full, they're living in their cars

with their kids and their pets," Hall said. "It's not like they're going to be able to move back. A lot of them are relinquishing their pets so they can be safe and have a good life. It's heartbreaking."

The rescue foundation is working with the Hawaii Island Humane Society, KARES Hawaii and Aloha Ilio Rescue to take

care of the animals. Many of the dogs were transported to Maui by volunteers flying small planes.

"When the volcano started to go off and the community became at risk, they called us, saying 'we have a lot of issues that are beyond our normal issues and can you help,'" Hall said.

The eruptions have affected the

health of some of the Big Island rescue animals, causing upper respiratory infections, eye infections and burned feet, particularly in cats, said Debbie Cravatta, founder of Kohala-based KARES Hawaii.

The animals are checked by veterinarians, vaccinated and spayed or neutered before they are put up for adoption.

## Trump threatens additional tariffs on US trading partners

By KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump declared Tuesday that "Tariffs are the greatest!" and threatened to impose additional penalties on U.S. trading partners as he prepared for negotiations with European officials at the White House.

Trump tweeted from the White House that U.S. trade partners need to either negotiate a "fair deal, or it gets hit with Tariffs. It's as simple as that."

The president has engaged in hardline trading negotiations with China, Canada and European nations, seeking to renegotiate trade agreements he says have undermined the nation's manufacturing base and led to a wave of job losses in recent decades. The imposition of punishing tariffs on imported goods has been a favored tactic by Trump, but it has prompted U.S. trading partners to retaliate, creating risks for the economy.

Trump has placed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, saying they pose a

threat to U.S. national security, an argument that allies such as the European Union and Canada reject. He has also threatened to slap tariffs on imported cars, trucks and auto parts, potentially targeting imports that last year totaled \$335 billion.

And the president has already put tariffs on \$34 billion in Chinese imports in a separate dispute over Beijing's high-tech industrial policies. Trump has threatened to ratchet that up to more than \$500 billion, a move that has left financial markets uneasy. Beijing's retaliatory tariffs have hit

American soybeans and pork.

Trump wrote on Twitter on Tuesday that the U.S. is a "piggy bank" that's being robbed." He noted that countries "that have treated us unfairly on trade for years" are coming to Washington to negotiate.

The president is meeting with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker on Wednesday. The U.S. and European allies have been at odds over the president's tariffs on steel imports and are meeting as the trade dispute threatens to spread to automobile production.



## NATION

# Police arrest suspect in train station stabbing

BY LORIN ELENI GILL  
AND OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ  
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The hunt for a man police say killed a woman in an unprovoked knife attack in the San Francisco Bay Area ended where it began—in a train station.

John Cowell, 27, a recently paroled robber with a violent history, was peacefully arrested on an Antioch-bound train Monday night about a dozen miles from the Oakland station where investigators believe he killed Nia Wilson, 18, and wounded her sister Sunday night.

"This is the first step to achieving justice for Nia and her family," Bay Area Rapid Transit police Chief Carlos Rojas said at a news conference.

A phone call from a BART rider led police to stop and search a Richmond-bound train at MacArthur Station in Oakland, but Cowell wasn't aboard, Rojas said.

"About 10 minutes later, after we got the call, another patron told us the subject got on an Antioch-bound train," Rojas said.

That train was stopped at the Pleasant Hill station in Walnut Park, northeast of Oakland. Cowell was on board and was arrested without incident.

Asked how a wanted man could



LORIN ELENI GILL/AP

Stabbing victim Lahtifa Wilson, center right, is embraced during a vigil for her sister, Nia Wilson, outside the MacArthur Bay Area Rapid Transit station Monday in Oakland, Calif.

have gotten back into the BART system, Rojas said he didn't immediately know but said the public transportation system is "porous" and large.

Rojas said police officers were on duty at MacArthur station where the attack took place but

wasn't sure it could have been prevented because of the suddenness of the unprovoked and possibly random attack.

In a "prison-style attack," Cowell stabbed Nia Wilson twice in the neck and then attacked her sister before fleeing and apparently

doffing his pants and sweatshirt to evade capture, Rojas said. The knife believed to have been used in the attack was found at a nearby construction site.

Lahtifa Wilson, 26, said she, Nia and a third sister had been returning from a family outing when they

were "blindsided by a maniac."

"He didn't know us; we didn't know him," Wilson said.

"I looked back, and he was wiping off his knife and stood at the stairs and just looked. From then on, I was caring for my sister," she told ABC7 News on Monday, speaking outside a family member's home with a bandage on her neck.

The women's father, Ansar Muhammad, said one of his daughters called him, crying hysterically, and told him to get to MacArthur Station.

"It's nothing imaginable, seeing your child on the BART platform with a yellow tarp over her body," Muhammad said Monday evening.

"That is an image I'll never forget for the rest of my life. So I want justice. All I want is justice."

Surveillance video on the train and at the station's platform showed Cowell had been riding the same car as the sisters Sunday, but they did not interact, Rojas said.

A motive for the attack remained unclear. Rojas said Cowell hasn't been connected to any radical or white supremacist groups, although he added, "We are going to explore all options and all possibilities."

The victims were black and Cowell is white.

## Calif. power grid operators urge conservation amid heat wave

BY ANITA SNOW  
Associated Press

PHOENIX — California's power grid operators called for cutbacks in electricity usage as parts of the U.S. Southwest braced Tuesday for another day of scorching heat.

With triple-digit temperatures expected throughout the region, the California Independent System Operator Corp. urged people to ease off blasting the air conditioner or using the washer or other appliances from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday and again on Wednesday. Those are the times of peak power usage.

The so-called Flex Alerts are needed to reduce the risk of rotating power outages, Cal-ISO said.

Scattered outages during the day and evening Monday left several thousand people sweltering even though overall state electrical demand never exceeded available supply.

Officials urged homeowners to keep the thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health also urged people to stay out of the sun.

"When temperatures are high, even a few hours of exertion may cause severe dehydration, heat cramps, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Others who are frail or have chronic health conditions may develop serious health problems leading to death if they are exposed to high temperatures over several days," said Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, the county's interim health officer.

Children, the elderly and pets shouldn't be left in homes without air conditioning or in



MATT YORK/AP

Phoenix city employee Tammy Wo stands by a water mister as she hands out cooling neckerchiefs to morning commuters early Monday.

cars even with open windows because temperatures can quickly soar to life-threatening levels, he said.

Highs around the Southwest approached 120 degrees Monday, with Phoenix recording a steamy 115 degrees, breaking the previous record for the day, the National Weather Service reported.

"It can be suffocating," Don Frey, an employee of the moving company Budget Movers, told KTVK-TV.

## Passengers recount moments after lava hit Hawaii tour boat

BY CALEB JONES  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A passenger on a tour boat that was struck by lava off Hawaii's Big Island last week shielded his girlfriend and waited for death as searing debris came ripping through the catamaran's roof.

"I remember getting hit with the lava in my back and just waiting for the heat," Will Bryan, 38, a paramedic who was on vacation in Hawaii, told The Associated Press. "I just assumed that whatever hit me was lava and I was going to burn and die."

His girlfriend, Erin Walsh, 31, was sitting next to him when lava rained down on them July 16. She said she was so traumatized she couldn't be around a running clothes dryer because the sound reminded her of the cacophony of lava that struck the boat.

"It's getting better each day, but I definitely feel like I'm kind of suffering from some PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder)," she told the AP on Monday by phone from Portland, Ore., where the couple lives. Walsh added she is still having trouble being alone in the dark.

The two were on a 49-passenger sight-seeing boat that takes people to see lava from the Kilauea volcano entering the sea. The volcano, which has been active for decades, began its latest eruption on May 3 and has destroyed more than 700 homes since.

The volcano's magnificent illuminations lived up to the tourists' expectations, at least at the beginning.

"Everybody oohed and awed," Bryan said. But that changed as the boat got closer. "You can hear the oohs and awes stopping. Everyone started to get nervous," he recalled.

The vessel made several passes in front of

the plume, getting closer each time. Bryan said "mob mentality" prevented him and others from speaking up about their fears of getting too close.

"This stuff was magical and exciting, and no one was saying a word," he said.

Bryan was sitting on the side of the boat closest to the explosion when it happened

and captured the event on video. The footage shows the lava blasting from the ocean and the sounds of rocks and debris pinging off the metal boat as people screamed.

When ever-hot lava enters much cooler ocean waters, there is the potential for these kinds of large explosions. The U.S. Geological Survey recommends people stay at least 300 yards away from any ocean entry.

When the blast happened, Bryan stood up and turned his back to the lava and shielded himself. The debris "pelted" his back but only "burned the top layers of his clothing, the lava never contacting his flesh. He did have burns on his foot and lacerations up and down his legs, and Walsh also had cuts and burns on her legs and arms. She also said debris got into her eyes.

"Every time [the lava] hit a person ... as it bounced off their skin or flesh, you could hear it," Bryan said, describing the sound as a "soft thud."

**‘Every time [the lava] hit a person ... as it bounced off their skin or flesh, you could hear it.’**

**Will Bryan**  
tour boat passenger

## NATION



# Higher calling

Fire lookouts span eras, stay crucial in spotting wildfires

PHOTOS BY TED S. WARREN/AP

Tom VandeWater walks up the stone steps to the Coolwater Fire Lookout in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests near Lowell, Idaho, last week. VandeWater, from Canton, N.Y., has staffed the lookout each summer for many years for the U.S. Forest Service.

By KEITH RIDLER  
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — Fire-lookout towers perched atop remote, craggy peaks across the U.S. West may seem like quaint reminders of an era before satellites, smartphones and jet-propelled air tankers.

Indeed, some of the structures are more than 100 years old. But with their lofty views and good old-fashioned human observation, fire lookouts play a crucial role in the nation's front-line efforts to stop wildfires.

"The biggest piece of this puzzle is to keep fires small," said Cassidy Kern, a U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman based in Oregon's Deschutes National Forest. "And the way to do that is to have someone who is vigilant and scanning."

Fire lookouts start taking on more responsibility as wildfire season transitions from lower elevation grasslands to higher elevation forests. Some towers are just getting staffed as snow melts and they become accessible.

This week, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, there are more than 50 large wildfires, mostly in the West, that have consumed about 1,500 square miles.

The Forest Service saw the need for early detection following wildfires in 1910 in Idaho and adjacent states that merged, killing 87 people and torching 4,700 square miles.

The solution was fire lookouts, with the number peaking somewhere around 5,000 in the 1940s. Many were constructed by the



**Above:** VandeWater demonstrates how he uses a device called the Osborne Fire-Finder to pinpoint the location of any smoke or fires he spots.  
**Left:** VandeWater looks out from the railing at the Coolwater Fire Lookout.

Civilian Conservation Corps, a federal program that paid young, unemployed men during the Great Depression to plant trees, develop parks and build roads and other structures.

Only about 400 lookouts remain, mostly in the West, after the Forest Service decided aircraft could replace them and destroyed many lookouts from the 1960s through 1980s rather than pay for needed repairs.

Using aircraft to spot wildfires, particularly after lightning storms, has become a significant part of the Forest Service's fire-fighting efforts. But officials have also found the remaining lookouts spot the majority of forest wildfires in the areas they cover, giving firefighters crucial extra time to put them out before they spread.

In general, officials say, aircraft can remain aloft for only

limited periods and can miss the faint or intermittent smoke from a nascent wildfire. A fire lookout can zero in on the area and spend more time observing it to get a better understanding of what might be happening.

"A trained lookout can be pretty darn accurate," said Rene Eustace, fire lookout coordinator for part of Montana's Bitterroot National Forest. "They learn the country. That's one of their jobs."

Fire-lookout towers are found mostly in national forests, which have autonomy on using them. Idaho's Salmon-Challis National Forest in 2010 opted to boost its staffed lookouts from four to six and cut back on flights over the rugged area.

Those who staff the lookouts usually stay in the rustic, one-room towers or in nearby cabins during fire season. Each tower is unique, but many are outfitted with a wooden bed frame, a table and chairs and an outhouse. Some contain small kitchens and wood stoves.

"Being a lookout is not a job for everybody," said Forest Service lookout Samsara Duffey, who was preparing to spend the next three months at about 8,000 feet at Patrol Mountain Lookout in Montana's Bob Marshall Wilderness with her dog, a blue heeler named Rye. "But it's a good job for a lot of folks who have patience and the ability to be alone."

Lookouts make about \$14 an hour for an eight-hour day and time-and-a-half for overtime. In an average four- to five-month season, Eustace said, a busy fire lookout can expect to work 200 to

300 hours of overtime.

Duffey said that like many lookouts, she's vigilant the entire day as opposed to just the eight hours she's being paid. This will be her 21st summer at the tower. The attraction: "Just the idea of being able to wake up on a mountaintop and spend the day watching the clouds move and the light change," said Duffey, 42. "It's really tough to walk away from that."

The walk into Patrol Mountain Lookout is not so easy either — a 6-mile uphill hike, a typical effort for many fire lookouts.

Medicine Point Lookout in the Bitterroot National Forest is where Eustace started his fire-fighting career in 1976. "It was essentially saved from destruction because the Forest Service decided to restore it and put it into the rental program," he said.

Nearly 75 such lookouts are available for rent, the sales pitch combining great views with a sense of history.

Medicine Point was built in 1940 and, like many other lookouts, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Some active fire lookouts are also on the list.

Efforts continue, meanwhile, to figure out a way to once and for all make fire lookouts obsolete with modern and potentially cheaper ways to spot fires. One plan replaces humans with remotely operated cameras.

"They've tried that, but so far it's not perfected," Eustace said. "It's still, in my opinion and the opinion of a lot of folks in the Forest Service, better to have a person on a mountaintop who can give you a description."

## NATION

# Judges cracking down on inmate cellphones

By DON THOMPSON

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Judges in California and South Carolina have ordered cellphone carriers to disable nearly 200 contraband cellphones used by inmates to orchestrate crimes behind and outside prison walls, the most sweeping order of its kind ever won by corrections officials.

It's an important victory for prison officials who have been frustrated by their inability to stop the flow of smuggled phones that are used to coordinate drug deals, gang operations and killings. Even murderous cult leader Charles Manson, who died in November, obtained phones and used them to communicate with followers outside prison.

The warrant essentially orders carriers to "turn these phones into bricks," California Corrections Secretary Scott Kernan told The Associated Press on Monday. The phones will be shut down over the next week or two, he said.

Kernan expects other states will follow the lead of South Carolina and California and ask judges to approve broad shutdowns. He said the ruling is a big step forward in addressing the intractable and related issue of drugs and cellphones in prisons.

Last February, federal prosecutors said

two inmates used smuggled cellphones to run a violent, drug-dealing street gang from inside California's super-maximum-security Pelican Bay State Prison. And South Carolina officials blamed a prison riot that killed seven inmates in April on a turf war between gangs over territory, money and contraband items such as drugs and cellphones.

The wireless industry has long been able to remotely disable cellphones if they are lost or stolen. But the industry has said it needs a court order before it can shut down the devices at the request of the government.

The goal is to not only stop inmates from using the phones to orchestrate crimes, but to disrupt the lucrative smuggling of cellphones by prison employees and others that Kernan said can bring the smuggler "about \$1,500 a pop on the (prison) black market." California authorities seized more than 13,000 cellphones last year alone, the most since 2011, "so you can do the math. That's a lot of black market."

Getting an order to shut down multiple cellphones is more efficient and cheaper than tracking them down and confiscating them one at a time.

In California, a Kern County judge on Friday ordered all the major carriers to shut down 97 devices including cellphones and SIM cards in Kern Valley State Prison



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Correctional Officer Jose Sandoval inspects cellphones confiscated from inmates at California State Prison, Solano, in Vacaville, Calif., in 2009. Judges in California and South Carolina have ordered cellphone carriers to shut down nearly 200 contraband phones used by inmates in state prisons.

in Delano, north of Bakersfield. A South Carolina judge issued a similar warrant for about 100 cellphones at one prison there, also on Friday, California officials said.

California plans to obtain similar warrants to regularly shut down phones in other prisons, Kernan said.

It has long been illegal for inmates to have cellphones in prison. Prison officials identified the contraband phones using cellphone signal-capturing devices that were installed years ago at 18 of California's 35 prisons. They halted expansion of that program in 2015 for fear the technology was being outpaced by advances in cellphones' sophistication.

South Carolina officials used similar technology to identify the illicit cellphones there, Kernan said.

California has since installed nearly 1,000 sophisticated metal detectors, scanners and secret security cameras in prisons to detect and deter the smuggling of cellphones and other contraband such as drugs. That effort was paid for by Virginia-based Global Tel-Link, the nation's largest prison phone company, from the projected \$17 million it receives each year from California inmates and their families who use landlines to make phone calls that are monitored for security reasons.

## Georgia legislator uses racial slur in TV series

Associated Press

ATLANTA — A Georgia lawmaker is the latest public figure caught with his pants down on provocative Sacha Baron Cohen's new cable TV series, this time literally, as the state legislator exposes his bottom, speaks with a mock Asian accent and yells a racial slur all in the name of fighting terrorism.

In Sunday night's broadcast of Cohen's Showtime series "Who Is America?" Cohen poses as an Israeli military expert who persuades Republican Rep. Spencer to take part in several outlandish exercises. The lawmaker is told they're making a counterterrorism video.

Spencer repeatedly shouts a racial slur for black people after Cohen tells him the tactic is useful for drawing bystanders' attention to an unfolding attack.

Cohen drops his pants, then his underwear, before backing his exposed rear end toward

Cohen while shouting "USA!" and "America!" Cohen told Spencer the move would incite fear in homophobic jihadis. The segment also shows Spencer speaking with a mock Asian accent while pretending to use a selfie-stick to surreptitiously insert a camera phone under a Muslim woman's burqa.

Spencer's on-camera conduct horrified fellow Republicans in Georgia. State House Speaker David Ralston said Spencer "disgraced himself and should resign immediately." The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

GOP Gov. Nathan Deal said in a tweet, "There is no excuse for this type of behavior, ever, and I am saddened and disgusted by it."

Regardless, there won't be any reckoning for Spencer at the ballot box this year. A Republican challenger already defeated the lawmaker in Georgia's May 22 primary.

Spencer isn't the first public figure to be fooled by Cohen in his



A. POINTER, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Georgia Rep. Jason Spencer was seen using racial slurs and dropping his pants in an episode of Sacha Baron Cohen's TV series "Who Is America?"

Showtime series. Former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, Democratic Sen. Bernie Sanders and former Arizona sheriff and U.S. Senate candidate Joe Arpaio have also been duped.

In a statement Monday, Spencer apologized for the "ridiculously ugly episode," but he refused to step down from office.

## Goldfish Crackers recalled amid salmonella fears

Associated Press

NORWALK, Conn. — Pepperidge Farm is voluntarily recalling four varieties of Goldfish Crackers because of fears they could potentially have salmonella.

The company Monday took the

action after one of its ingredient suppliers notified it that they powder used in a seasoning may be contaminated. The products were distributed in the United States and no illnesses have been reported.

The Goldfish recall covers Fla-

vor Blasted Xtra Cheddar, Flavor Blasted Sour Cream & Onion, Goldfish Baked with Whole Grain Xtra Cheddar and Goldfish Mix Xtra Cheddar & Pretzel.

The company has posted a chart with the product codes on its website.

## Accused 'Jihad Jane' recruiter pleads guilty

By JEREMY ROEBUCK

The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — An Algerian-born al-Qaida operative who recruited Montgomery County's Colleen "Jihad Jane" LaRose and others in a 2009 plot to assassinate a Swedish cartoonist pleaded guilty Monday and agreed to accept a 15-year prison term, bringing an end to one of Philadelphia's longest running terrorism investigations.

The move by Ali Charaf Damache — who was indicted in 2011 and has been held in custody in Philadelphia since his extradition from Spain last year — came as something of a surprise. Just eight months earlier, the pugnacious defendant interrupted one of his earliest court appearances, demanding he be allowed to fire his lawyer and alleging he had been fed false promises of a shorter sentence in exchange for cooperating with authorities.

In Monday's hearing before U.S. District Judge Petrese B. Tucker, Damache, 53, was significantly more subdued. Dressed in an olive prison jumpsuit, his black-framed eyeglasses pushed back atop his head, he mumbled responses to a series of questions from the bench — showing only glimpses of his earlier combativeness.

As part of his deal with prosecutors, Damache agreed to accept the maximum sentence on a single count of conspiracy to provide

material support to terrorists and said he would not fight attempts to deport him back to Ireland or Algeria — countries in which he holds citizenship — once he has completed his prison term.

In exchange, prosecutors dropped another charge they had lodged, accusing him of identity theft in support of a terrorist plot.

The deal must be officially approved by Tucker at a sentencing hearing scheduled for Oct. 30.

First Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Arbritter Williams characterized it Monday as an ideal outcome in a case that produced some of the earliest prosecutions of Americans radicalized over the internet, a threat that has only become more acute in the seven years since Damache was first charged.

Those recruits included LaRose whose 2009 arrest and fiery online rhetoric under the screen name "Jihad Jane" shocked an America still coming to terms with the threat from international terrorists it faced. Bond, white and blue-eyed, she hardly fit the profile many in the United States associated with Islamic extremism.

But those very qualities were what made her attractive to Damache. He admitted Monday that he purposefully set out to recruit LaRose and others like her in hopes they could more easily move across borders with less suspicion.



## WORLD

# Motive sought in Toronto shooting

By ROB GILLIES  
AND TAMARA LUSH  
Associated Press

TORONTO — Canadian investigators are digging into the life of a 29-year-old man, seeking to explain what prompted him to fire a handgun into restaurants and cafes in a lively Toronto neighborhood, killing a girl and a young woman and wounding 13 others.

The family of gunman Faisal Hussain, who died during an exchange of gunfire with police, said Monday that he had long suffered from psychosis and depression but they never imagined he would do such a thing.

It was not immediately clear whether he took his own life or was killed by police during the rampage Sunday night.

The mass shooting in the Greektown district came just three months after a man used a van to plow over pedestrians on a sidewalk in another Toronto district, killing 10 people and injuring 14 in an attack apparently aimed at women.

A statement from Hussain's relatives said he had lifelong "severe mental health challenges." They said medications did not help him and the interventions of professionals were unsuccessful.

"While we did our best to seek help for him throughout his life of struggle and pain, we could never imagine that this would be his

devastating and destructive end," the family said. "Our hearts are in pieces for the victims and for our city as we all come to grips with this terrible tragedy. We will mourn those who were lost for the rest of our lives."

Investigators searched the low-income apartment that Hussain shared with his parents and siblings on Thorncliffe Park Drive in the eastern part of the city.

Police Chief Mark Saunders said he would not speculate on a motive but did rule out terrorism.

"We do not know why this has happened yet," he said. "It's going to take some time."

The slain 18-year-old was identified as Reese Fallon, a recent high school graduate who volunteered for Canada's Liberal party and was to attend McMaster University in the fall. Her family said they were devastated.

Flags at Toronto City Hall as well as at Fallon's former high school, Malvern CI, were lowered to half-staff.

Officials did not identify the 10-year-old who was killed or name any of the 13 wounded, who included six women and girls and seven men. The wounded ranged in age from 10 to 59.

Dr. Najma Ahmed, of St. Michael's Hospital, said five shooting victims were admitted in serious or critical condition, with three of them undergoing immediate lifesaving surgery.



MARK BLUNCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

A man reacts at a vigil in remembrance of the victims of a shooting the evening before in Toronto on Monday.



ANJUM NAVEED/AP

An army soldier stands guard while election staff load ballot boxes and polling material in a vehicle outside a distribution center in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on Tuesday.

## Pakistan campaign marred by charges of rigging, manipulation

By KATHY GANNON  
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — As Pakistan prepares to make history Wednesday by electing a third straight civilian government, rights activists, analysts and candidates say the campaign has been among its dirtiest ever, imperiling the country's wobbly transition to democratic rule.

The campaign has been characterized by "blatant, aggressive and unabashed attempts to manipulate" the outcome, with media being silenced and the intimidation of candidates, according to Pakistan's Independent Human Rights Commission.

At the center of most allegations is the powerful military establishment, along with its intelligence agency, known by the acronym ISI.

The manipulation is seen as seeking to prevent the Pakistan Muslim League, the party of disgraced Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, from returning to power while giving a shot at running the country to former cricket star Imran Khan and his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, or PTI.

The rancorous campaign and charges of manipulation have polarized Pakistanis, and whichever party loses is likely to cry fraud.

"Whatever we elections run, I see a lot of instability," said Ayesha Siddiqi, a defense analyst and author of "Military Inc.," about the massive financial holdings of Pakistan's military.

The military has ruled the country of more than 200 million people — directly or indirectly — for most of its history. Successive attempts at protracted democracy have been interrupted by military coups, the last one in 1999.

Pakistanis went to the polls in 2008 and elected their first civilian government in 12 years.

"This is quite a schizophrenic moment for Pakistan's democracy," said Moeed Yusuf, associate vice president of the Asia Center at the Washington-based U.S. Institute of Peace.

"On the one hand, you have completing 10 years of uninterrupted democratic rule. ... On the other hand, you've got all sorts of allegations of pre-poll rigging and manipulation."

The left-leaning Pakistan People's Party was propelled to

victory in 2008 by sympathetic voters following the death of their leader, Benazir Bhutto, killed by militant radicals she had vowed to eradicate.

Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League, or PML-N, won in 2013, but he fell out with the military after questioning its links to some militant groups and seeking to make it subservient to parliament.

He was ousted last year after leaked documents from a Panama law firm revealed he and his family had undisclosed assets abroad. He was found guilty of corruption, banned from politics for life and sentenced to 10 years in jail, where he is appealing his conviction. His brother, Shahbaz Sharif, took power.

"The shadow of the military looming over the election amplifies the continued struggles of democracy in Pakistan," said Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson Center. "Allegations of army meddling and the fact that troops will be deployed on mass levels on election day make it crystal clear that this election process is not entirely a civilian-led process."

## Hundreds missing after Laos dam collapse

Associated Press

BANGKOK — A hydroelectric dam collapsed in southeastern Laos, leaving an unknown number of people dead and hundreds missing, state media said Tuesday.

The official Lao news agency KPL said the Xepian-Xe Nam Noy hydropower dam in Attapeu province collapsed Monday evening, releasing large amounts of water that swept away houses and made more than more than 6,600

people homeless.

The dam was constructed by a joint venture led by South Korean companies, with Thai and Lao partners. The project, scheduled to begin operating this year, was still under construction, KPL reported. It described the portion that collapsed as a "saddle dam," which is an auxiliary dam used to hold water beyond what is held by the main dam.

Prime Minister Thongloun Siloulath "suspended the planned

monthly meeting of the government for August and led his Cabinet members and other senior officials to Sanamxay (district) to monitor rescue and relief efforts being made for flood victims," KPL said. Many areas of Laos have recently been hit by flooding from seasonal rains.

Electricity from several hydroelectric dams provides a large share of Laos' export earnings, with Thailand being a major buyer.



AP

Villagers take refuge on a rooftop above floodwaters from a collapsed dam in the Attapeu district of Laos on Tuesday.

## WORLD

# At least 74 killed in Greek wildfires

By DEREK GATOPOULOS  
AND ELENA BECATOROS  
Associated Press

RAFINA, Greece — Twin wildfires raging through popular seaside areas near the Greek capital have torched homes, cars and trees, and killed at least 74 people, authorities said Tuesday, raising the death toll after rescue crews reported finding the bodies of more than 20 people huddled together near a beach.

Many people headed to beaches and the coastline to seek fleeing flames and choking smoke. More than 700 people were evacuated by sea throughout the night, said Merchant Marine deputy minister Nektarios Santorinios, whose ministry is in charge of the coast guard.

The head of Greece's Red Cross, Nikos Oikonomopoulos, told Skai television a member of a Red Cross rescue team had told him the crew searching a seaside area northeast of Athens had found 26 bodies, apparently families, huddled tightly together, many of them dead.

The group is believed to have been discovered near several cars found charred outside a walled compound gutted by the fire.

"Everything happened in seconds," said local resident Andreas Passios, who lives next to the compound. "I grabbed a beach towel. It saved my life. I soaked it, grabbed my wife and we ran to the sea."

Passios said he and his wife stayed by the sea for two hours.

"It was unbelievable. Gas canisters were exploding, burning pine cones were flying everywhere."

Spyros Hadjiandreou arrived on the spot looking for missing loved ones.

"My niece and cousin were staying here on holiday. I don't know if they made it out," he said. "I don't know if they are OK. I haven't heard from them."

The fires — one about 30 miles west of Athens in Kineti, the other northeast of the capital near Rafina — broke out Monday from as-yet-undetermined causes. Fanned by gale-force winds, they spread rapidly into inhabited areas in popular holiday seaside regions, preventing many who were in their cars or homes from managing to flee, said the fire-fighting spokeswoman Stavroula Malliri said.

One of the survivors from the fire-stricken area near Rafina was former Greek Communist Party leader Aleka Papariga.

"The police tried to direct us away from the fire, but we couldn't escape it," she said. "We got stuck



A woman sprays water outside her house that was damaged in wildfires near the village of Neos Voutzas near Athens, Greece, on Tuesday.

YOROS KARANALIS/AP

## Survivor tells of dramatic flight, rescue

By DEREK GATOPOULOS  
Associated Press

RAFINA, Greece — One of the survivors of major forest fires that ravaged a seaside area of Greece has given a dramatic account of how he fled from the fire, swimming into the sea to escape the flames and choking smoke only to get swept away by the current.

He was rescued by a fishing boat but saw other members of his group drown.

Nikos Stavrinidis had gone to his summer home in the Mati area near Rafina with his wife to prepare it for his daughter, a student, who was coming to stay. Before he knew it, the fire surrounded him.

"It happened very fast," Stavrinidis told The Associated Press. "The fire was in the distance, then sparks from the fire reached us. Then the fire was all around us."

"We ran to the sea. We had to swim out because of the smoke, but we couldn't see where anything was," he said.

There were six people in his group: Stavrinidis, his wife and some of her friends. They swam farther out to escape the smoke, but as they did

so, they began to be carried away by the wind and the current. They lost sight of the shore and became disoriented.

"We couldn't see anything," he said.

Gale-force winds fanning the flames in the area also hampered fire-fighting efforts and whipped up the seas.

"We didn't all make it," Stavrinidis said. One of the women in his group and one woman's son drowned.

"What upsets me and what I will carry in my heart is that it is terrible to see the person next to you drowning and not be able to help him. You can't. That's the only tragic thing," he said, his voice breaking. "That will stay with me."

Stavrinidis said he believes they were in the water for about two hours before being picked up by a fishing boat with an Egyptian crew.

"I'm grateful to all of them," he said. "They jumped into the sea with their clothes still on. They made us tea and kept us warm. They were great."



Stavrinidis

**'My niece and cousin were staying here on holiday. I don't know if they made it out. I don't know if they are OK.'**

Spyros Hadjiandreou

resident of fire-ravaged area near Athens, Greece

in traffic, and the flames were on top of us. We managed to find a small gap and we made it out."

Greece sought international help through the European Union as fires on either side of Athens left hundreds of cars torched and charred farms and forests, and sent thousands of people racing to beaches to be evacuated by navy vessels, yachts and fishing boats. The coast guard said 19 people had been found at sea and rescued, while 696 had been picked up from beaches and the coastline by boat. Spain was sending two firefighting aircraft, while Cyprus was sending 10 fire-fighters to help battle the flames. Israel and Turkey both also offered to help in any way they could.

The fire department said 156 adults and 16 children were hospitalized with injuries. Eleven of the adults were in serious condition.

Winds reached 50 mph as authorities deployed the country's entire fleet of water-dropping planes and helicopters to give vacationers time to escape. Mil-

itary drones remained in the air in the high winds to help officials direct more than 600 firefighters on the ground.

"We were unlucky. The wind changed and it came at us with such force that it razed the coastal area in minutes," said Evangelos Bournous, mayor of the port town of Rafina, a sleepy mainland port that serves Greek holiday islands.

The dock area became a makeshift hospital as paramedics checked survivors, some of them clad in only their bathing suits, when they came off coast guard vessels and private boats. The operation continued through the night.

It was the deadliest fire season to hit Greece in more than a decade. More than 60 people were killed in 2007 when huge fires swept across the southern Peloponnese region.

"It's a difficult night for Greece," Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said after cutting short a trip to Bosnia and returning to Athens.

Showers that passed over the Greek capital Monday missed the two big fires. Heavy rain is forecast across southern Greece on Wednesday.

Forest fires are common in Greece during the hot, dry summers, and temperatures recently hit highs of up to 104 Fahrenheit.

# Israel says Syrian jet breached airspace

Associated Press

BEIRUT — Israel shot down a Syrian fighter jet it said had breached its airspace on Tuesday while advancing Syrian government forces retaking territory from rebels reached the Golan Heights frontier for the first time in seven years.

The Israeli military said it monitored the advance of the Syrian Sukhoi fighter jet and shot it down with a pair of Patriot missiles after it penetrated Israeli airspace by about 1.2 miles.

Syria's military, however, said one of its jets was targeted by Israel over Syrian territory as it flew sorties against Islamic State militants.

Syrian forces have been battling rebels and ISIS militants at the frontier with Israel for weeks in a campaign to restore President Bashar Assad's rule over south-western Syria.

On Tuesday, government forces crossed the border fence where a U.N. peacekeeping force is deployed at the edge of the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It was the first time the Syrian government had managed to retake the area since 2011, when an uprising swept through Syria against Assad.

Israel captured Golan Heights from Syria in 1967. The U.N. deployed peacekeepers between the two sides in 1974.

Israel's military has been on "elevated alert" along the frontier because of activity on the Syrian side of the fence, said military spokesman Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus. Israel has warned Syria through various channels not to violate the 1974 agreement that established the demilitarized zone, he added.

Minutes before the reported downing of the jet, Syria's state-run Al-Ikhbariya TV has been broadcasting footage from the fence demarcating the U.N. buffer zone between Syrian and Israeli forces in the Golan Heights. A U.N. observer post could be seen just on the other side of the fence.

The camera showed an Israeli post 400 meters away.

Israel's military said the Syrian jet took off from the T4 air base, which Israel is believed to have attacked earlier this year. The plane flew toward Israel at "relatively high speed" before breaching the country's airspace, said Conricus. He said it was unknown if the plane deliberately crossed into Israel.

The plane crashed in the southern part of the Syrian Golan Heights, he said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said one pilot was killed and that the condition of the other was unknown.

Syrian rebels surrendered their last pockets in the southwestern Quneitra and Daraa provinces last week, leading thousands of opposition fighters, their families and other civilians to evacuate to the rebel-held province of Idlib in northern Syria.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Teen helps save friend who suffered seizure

**NH** PELHAM — A 14-year-old boy helped save his friend who suffered a seizure while swimming in New Hampshire.

WMUR-TV reported Ethan Gerry and Matthew Brooks were swimming in a pond in Pelham on Saturday when Ethan noticed Matthew's eyes rolling back.

Ethan said he dove under and held his friend above the water for as long as he could until an older boy helped lift Matthew onto a raft. Matthew was taken to a local hospital for treatment.

It is unclear what led to Matthew's seizure, but his parents said Ethan helped save his life.

## Inert grenade found as basement is cleaned

**MI** HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP — Authorities said a woman cleaning a basement in suburban Detroit found what turned out to be an inert grenade.

The Oakland County sheriff's office said in a statement the discovery was made Saturday in Highland Township.

A deputy responded to the Highland Township Substation after another person reported his friend found the military-style grenade with a safety pin in place. He told the deputy that his friend's deceased ex-husband had served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

The Michigan State Police bomb disposal unit checked out the grenade and determined it was inert.

## Attorney general: Pot gifting remains illegal

**VT** MONTPELIER — Vermont Attorney General T.J. Donovan has clarified that the sale of marijuana, even when it is given as a "gift with purchase," is still illegal, despite the legalization of marijuana possession.

Donovan unveiled the guidance Monday. He clarified that any purchase, even the purchase of another item "with a purported gift of marijuana," continues to remain illegal. Vermont legalized the possession of one ounce of marijuana July 1 but did not legalize its sale or distribution. Businesses in the Burlington area had begun "gifting" marijuana with the purchase of a courier service, arguing there was a loophole in the law and that nobody was purchasing marijuana.

## Police respond to call, find alligator in building

**NY** BATAVIA — Police responding to a 911 hang-up call from an abandoned building in western New York found something they weren't expecting — a 4-foot-long alligator.

WKWB-TV in Buffalo reported officers in the city of Batavia were checking out the inside of the building Monday for anyone in distress when they found the alligator in a makeshift aquarium. Officers notified the state

## THE CENSUS

867

The number of suspects Massachusetts State Police officials say they have identified who were arrested with deliberately altered fingerprints — most of them within the past few years. Boston-area FBI officials began to keep an eye out for altered prints in 2014 after two doctors were arrested in two separate cases on suspicion of offering to surgically alter the fingerprints of convicted criminals and immigrants in the U.S. illegally.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

## Fountain frolic

Children play in spraying water at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park in Nashville, Tenn.

Department of Environmental Conservation, which sent an environmental conservation officer to the scene. The reptile was handed over to the DEC officer.

## Swastika burned into grass at memorial park

**NE** OMAHA — Omaha police are trying to find whoever burned a Nazi symbol into the grass at an Omaha park memorializing U.S. military members who died in World War II.

Someone used a chemical or other means Saturday to turn green grass into a brown swastika several feet across at Memorial Park in east-central Omaha. The parks department has tilted over the swastika, and the city intends to reseed the area.

No arrests have been reported.

## Breastfeeding at pool prompts police call

**MN** MORA — Dozens of mothers and their children gathered during the weekend for what they called a "nurse-in" to support two women who were chastised for breast-

feeding at a public swimming pool in eastern Minnesota.

The women gathered Saturday near the Mora Aquatic Center in Mora to defend Stephanie Buchanan and Mary Davis, two sisters-in-law whose breastfeeding of their infants last week prompted a call to police.

Buchanan said a pool patron approached them and asked them to cover up while they nursed because her boys were swimming nearby. Then a staff member made the same request and suggested they move to the locker room. Buchanan cited Minnesota state law, which protects breastfeeding in public whether a woman is covered up or not.

The women eventually left the pool when police were called.

## Band: Police lip-sync of song is 'amazing'

**OH** MIDDLETOWN — An Ohio police department's entry in a lip-sync challenge sweeping the nation has gotten rave reviews — including from the country music group whose song is featured.

Middletown police Chief Rodney Muterspaw said he's "over-

wheeled" by the response to a video his department created as part of a national lip-sync challenge among police departments. The Hamilton-Middleton Journal-News reported that among fans of the video is the band Lady Antebellum, which tweeted that the police department's cover of its song "Need You Now" is "amazing."

Since its posting on Wednesday the video has been viewed more than 2 million times.

## Woman charged after flag is stolen, burned

**DE** LEWES — A Delaware woman was charged with theft and criminal mischief for taking a police flag from a highway median and burning it.

Catherine Iocco, 21, of Wilmington was arrested after the incident earlier this month near Lewes.

Delaware State Police said witnesses saw a woman get out of her car on Coastal Highway near the Nassau Bridge and remove a mounted "thin blue line" flag. The flag uses the U.S. flag design in different colors and is meant to honor police.

Police said witnesses obtained a description and license plate number of Iocco's car. Troopers said Iocco could not return the flag because she burned it.

Police said the flag's owner placed it several days before the incident to mark the recent death of a state trooper.

## License suspensions over fines to end

**ME** AUGUSTA — Maine will no longer suspend driver's licenses over unpaid fines once a new law goes into effect.

The law says that until October 2021, Maine will no longer automatically suspend driver's licenses for failure to pay fines unrelated to driving.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Maine said suspending driver's licenses make it harder to pay a fine. The advocacy group said courts can instead garnish wages or order community service.

Lawmakers overrode GOP Gov. Paul LePage's veto. He said the bill leaves violators no sense of urgency to pay fines.

From wire reports



## FACES



Kenny Chesney — in Phoenix in June — started writing songs and organizing relief efforts after Hurricane Irma wiped out the U.S. Virgin Islands last year. Chesney is donating proceeds from the sale of his new album to a foundation he set up to support recovery on the islands.

By KRISTIN M. HALL  
Associated Press

At Philadelphia's Lincoln Financial Field this June, Kenny Chesney flew in a large group of VIP guests to visit with him before performing for some 55,000 fans. They weren't music industry bigwigs.

They were school children and teachers from the U.S. Virgin Islands, where Hurricane Irma made landfall last year and caused massive destruction. And they also happened to be his neighbors on the island of St. John.

"I've spent the majority of my adult life walking those beaches and hanging out in those bars and writing songs," Chesney, 50, recalled later in his manager's office in Nashville. "All of a sudden, it was a place that was very beautiful and that was very broken."

St. John was among several Caribbean islands hit last September by the most powerful hurricane to develop over the open Atlantic. Throughout the Caribbean, the Category 5 storm knocked out power and cell phone towers for weeks or months, damaged roads, airports and hospitals and smashed up boats, businesses and homes.

Chesney was not on the island, but he opened his home there to friends and neighbors so they could ride out the storm. They survived, but his home was destroyed.

"I could hear the anxiety and the stress on everyone," Chesney said. "The people that actually rode the storm out in the bottom of my home, I was able to get them off the island a couple of weeks after the storm. And you know when they got to my home, they were wearing the same clothes they had on that morning [of the storm]."

Immediately after the storm hit, he wrote the title track of his new album, "Songs for the Saints," out Friday. "I was writing the songs as a lot of the destruction and devastation was happening," Chesney said. "I've never made a record like that in the middle of such anxiety."

Although born in landlocked Tennessee, Chesney has become an islander at heart. On St. John, he made friends and enjoyed the peace and isolation away from the demands of his superstar life. There were years where he'd step off a tour bus and head straight for a boat. "The people that I met there didn't care what I did," Chesney said. "They had no idea. It was great."

He turned that island lifestyle into his brand, and the loyal No Shoes Nation that pack out stadiums. The island had fed his human spirit and his creative side as a songwriter, but now he had his chance to give back.

Within days, Chesney set up a foundation called Love for Love City, also the title of the second song he wrote after the storm. He helped bring in medical supplies and equipment, had crews clear out debris and rescue

pets and bought new musical instruments for the St. John School of the Arts.

"Not many people know what Kenny has done and is still doing for the rebuilding efforts in the Virgin Islands," said his friend and country star Eric Church. "It's a place that is a part of his DNA, of his story. It tells you the kind of person he is and how big his heart is to see him helping in this way."

Chesney was also in the midst of working on a new record deal with Warner Music Nashville, making his move from Sony after more than two decades. He called up John Esposito, the chairman of Warner Music Nashville, and told him he was ready to work with Warner, but he had a caveat.

"He says, 'The first record I'm doing is a charity record,'" Esposito said.

**"I've spent the majority of my adult life walking those beaches and hanging out in those bars and writing songs. All of a sudden, it was a place that was very beautiful and that was very broken."**

Esposito absolutely agreed that proceeds of the record should go to the foundation, but beyond that Esposito said the record is just a great album. "I've actually listened to this album 250 times and not only am I never bored with it, I hear something else unveiled with every listen," Esposito said.

The album has already produced Chesney's 30th No. 1 single, "Get Along," making him the artist with the most songs to top Billboard's Country Airplay chart.

On the title track, Chesney's vocals take center stage at the beginning with an acoustic guitar and a single drum beat, as he sings that "God lifted these islands from the ocean." On "Love for Love City," Chesney adds delicate steel drums and Ziggy Marley to the loping, reggae-inspired song in which he promises to be a part of the island's encore.

The songs aren't sad odes to what was lost, but reflective of the grit and hope necessary to keep going. At the end of the album, Chesney covers a song called "Better Boat," written by Travis Meadows and Liz Rose, which is a poignant description of the struggle of personal recovery.

Others like "Trying to Reason (With Hurricane Season)," a duet between Chesney and Jimmy Buffett, who wrote the song, are more lighthearted. Mac McAnally, an acclaimed guitarist and songwriter who worked on the record, said that Chesney kept the instrumentation to a minimum to keep the focus on the lyrics. "That kind of framework lets you be a little more contemplative as you listen," McAnally said. "A song that's got some depth to it benefits from being listened to a little quieter."

## R. Kelly sings about troubles in song

R. Kelly sings about his troubles and battles in a new 19-minute song, addressing sexual abuse claims against him that have put a screeching halt on his career.

The song, "I Admit," was posted to Soundcloud on Monday. The track begins with the lyrics, "I admit I have made some mistakes/And I have some imperfect ways."

R. Kelly gets personal throughout the track, singing that he likes "all the ladies, that's both older and young ladies," following it up with: "But tell me how they call it pedophile because that [expletive] is crazy."

The embattled entertainer has long been accused of behavior that has ranged from questionable to criminal. He was accused of child pornography after a widely circulated videotape appeared to show him having sex with, and urinating on, a teenage girl. He was acquitted of all charges in 2008 and continued to rack up hits and sell out stadiums around the country.

On "I Admit," he sings that he's "not convicted, not arrested, dragged my name in the dirt/All this work to be successful, when you abandon me 'cause of what you heard."

R. Kelly is one of pop music's best-selling artists. He has also written hits for other artists. While he's written classic love songs and even gospel music, he is defined by sexually explicit songs.

On the new song, he says he was sexually abused as a child, singing "a family member touched me" and revealing he was "so scared to say something, so I just put the blame on me."

He also says that he does not own his music, that he dropped out of school and that he "couldn't read the teleprompter when the Grammy's asked me to present (an award)."

## Strahan, Haines head up hour of 'GMA'

Michael Strahan and Sara Haines have been tapped as co-hosts of the new third hour of ABC's "Good Morning America," the network announced Monday.

The expansion of the morning franchise — called "GMA Day" — will launch Sept. 10.

Strahan, 65, will add the taped hour to his current duties as co-host on the "GMA" flagship that runs from 7 to 9 a.m. with George Stephanopoulos and Robin Roberts. Haines, 40, will move to "GMA Day" from the ABC News panel show "The View," where she has been a co-host since September 2016.

"GMA Day" will be taped immediately after the two-hour live broadcast in the morning.

## Swift's 'Fearless' hits diamond status

Taylor Swift's sophomore album, which won album of the year at the 2010 Grammys, has been certified diamond.

Big Machine Label Group President and CEO Scott Borchetta surprised the singer after her show Sunday with a plaque for "Fearless" indicating sales and streaming equivalent sales of 10 million units.

Swift actually earned six new plaques from the Recording Industry Association of America, including a triple-platinum certification for her latest album, "reputation."

She became the first woman to perform three consecutive shows at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, when she hit the stage July 20 and 21 and Sunday. With six shows at MetLife, Swift now ties Bruce Springsteen and Bon Jovi for most shows played at the stadium.

## Other news

■ Jennifer Hudson, James Corden, Taylor Swift and Ian McKellen are among those who have signed on for a new film adaptation of Andrew Lloyd Webber's beloved musical "Cats." The role of Grizabella, the Glamour Cat, will be played by Hudson, who will get to sing one of the most iconic songs from the show, "Memory."

■ Filmmaker James Cameron and Titanic discoverer Robert Ballard are backing a bid by a group of British museums to acquire a collection of 5,500 artifacts from the sunken vessel. The campaign announced Tuesday aims to raise \$20 million to buy the items from a private company that salvaged them from the wreck.

■ Nicholas "Duffy" Fudge, a fisherman who was part of the cast of the reality television show "Wicked Tuna," has died. He was 28. The Remick & Gendron Funeral Home confirmed to The Associated Press that Fudge, Greenland, N.H., died July 19. A cause of death was not released. The National Geographic Channel show follows several Gloucester, Mass.-based boats that try to land bluefin tuna.

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Tesla's call for cash from suppliers 'troubling'

By DAVID WELCH

Bloomberg

When a company asks suppliers to retroactively give money back, it's a sign that something has gone wrong.

That's what analysts worry about with Tesla Inc., which has asked suppliers to return a portion of payments for parts they've delivered going back to 2016. In the memo to suppliers last week, Tesla asked for a meaningful amount of money to help it become profitable.

That's worrisome because Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk has said that the success of the new Model 3 sedan should pull the perennial money loser into the black in this year's second half and show positive cash flow. What may be happening is that Tesla spent so much money racing to get its factory to 5,000

Model 3s in a week — while not delivering all of them to buyers yet — that second-quarter numbers are going to look rough and Musk needs a hand from suppliers to shore up the balance sheet until later in the year.

"It's troubling," David Whiston, an analyst with Morningstar Inc. in Chicago, said in an interview Monday as Tesla's stocks and bonds declined. "Usually, carmakers play hardball with suppliers going forward not backward. The second quarter could look ugly because they spent a ton of money ramping up to hit production targets."

Tesla has been a prodigious cash burner, torching \$8 billion in the last four years. In the first quarter, as the company was pushing to get the Model 3 production line going, it went through more than \$1 billion, according to data compiled by

Bloomberg.

As pressure mounted to ramp up Model 3 production, Musk set up a tent outside Tesla's plant in Fremont, Calif. The company had trouble with its heavily automated assembly line indoors and needed to set up the outside line to boost production.

The race to get the Model 3 going may have added unexpected costs in the second quarter. Even though Tesla is making more of the sedans, the company won't complete delivery and collect revenue for many of them until the third quarter, Whiston said. So even though Tesla may be able to show its investors a pleasant surprise in the second half, Musk may want suppliers to help him shore up cash flow and profits now.

In the memo, which was obtained by the Wall Street Journal, Tesla called the move a routine

practice of working with suppliers. While it's true that carmakers will ask for lower prices in future model years as both sides wring cost out of manufacturing, asking for money from parts made two years ago is highly unusual, said Ron Harburt, a senior partner at Oliver Wyman in Detroit.

"I have never heard of that," Harburt said. "Suppliers have been asked for reductions, but going back for them in arrears reeks of desperation."

Musk has said he won't need to raise cash this year, but some analysts have doubts. This could be a sign that Musk has to change his mind, Whiston said. In addition to boosting Model 3 production, Tesla in short order plans to build new factories in China and Europe and bring the Model Y sport utility vehicle, a semi truck, pickup and roadster to market.

All of that has to happen while

Tesla carries \$10.5 billion in debt. Of those obligations, more than \$1.7 billion is due in the next 16 months. Tesla has \$230 million due in November, \$920 million due in March of next year and \$566 million due in November 2019. Even if Tesla's operations are cash flow-neutral this year and next, just paying off that debt would leave Tesla with only \$900 million in cash on the balance sheet, said Joel Levintown, a debt analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 25)	\$1.1999
Dollar buys (July 25)	€0.8334
British pound (July 25)	\$1.35
Japanese yen (July 25)	108.60
South Korean won (July 25)	1,106.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3778
British pound	\$1.3144
Canada (Dollar)	1.3143
China (Yuan)	6.7956
Denmark (Krone)	6.3642
Egypt (Pound)	17.8901
Euro	\$1.1708/0.8542
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8471
Hungary (Forint)	278.44
Israel (Shekel)	3.6563
Japan (Yen)	111.026
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.0022
Norway (Krone)	8.1639
Philippines (Peso)	53.25
Poland (Zloty)	3.68
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7510
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3631
South Korea (Won)	1,127.88
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9932
Thailand (Baht)	33.34
Turkey (Lira)	4.8751

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (e.g., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### MARKET WATCH

July 23, 2018

Dow Jones Industrials	-13.83
	25,044.29
Nasdaq composite	21.67
	7,841.87
Standard & Poor's 500	5.15
	2,806.98
Russell 2000	1.60
	1,698.41

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.31
3-month bill	1.97
30-year bond	3.10

## SF mulling ban on plastic straws and stirrers

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — In a bid to further cut down on waste, eco-conscious San Francisco is expected to join Seattle in outlawing plastic straws.

The proposal, which was scheduled to be taken up by the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, also would make the novel move to ban vendors from using takeout containers made with fluorinated chemicals. Washington's governor recently signed legislation approving a possible ban to go into effect in 2022, but San Francisco's January 2020 deadline would be earlier.

The legislation prohibits eateries from using plastic anti-splashers, stirrers and other plastic items that environmentalists say are too small to be recycled properly.

Retailers would no longer be able to sell the items starting in July 2019. In addition, food and drink vendors would be allowed to dispense cutlery, napkins, condiments and lids only on request or through self-serve stations.

People with disabilities have spoken out against the plastic straw ban, saying customers with mobility issues rely on the tubes to drink and paper or metal straws aren't always appropriate.

"It's a movement not just happening in San Francisco but nationally and internationally," said Peter Gallotta, spokesman for the city's Department of Environment.

The Washington, D.C.-based Plastics Industry Association issued a statement Monday saying a better solution is to expand recycling technology. "Regardless of what a straw is made of, we can all agree that it should not end up as litter," it said.

Seattle is believed to be the first major U.S. city to shun plastic straws when its ban went into effect this month. Since then, the world's largest coffee shop and

hotel chains — Starbucks and Marriott — announced they, too, would move away from plastic straws and stirrers.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# Stripes

## SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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## OPINION

## Not yet known if Putin won in Helsinki

By JACKSON DIEHL

The Washington Post

Russian President Vladimir Putin is probably still smirking about the chaos created by President Donald Trump's European tour, which has led thoughtful people on both sides of the Atlantic to conclude that not just NATO but the whole post-World War II liberal order led by the United States is doomed.

They may be proved right. But I suspect that before they are, Putin, too, will come to regret the Helsinki summit. More than likely, it has torpedoed the Russian president's chances of extracting practical benefits from Trump's fervent attempt to court him — favors Putin badly needs. As the foreign relations scholar Stephen Sestanovich put it on Twitter, "an idiot who's too big an idiot can't be a useful idiot."

We still don't know all that Putin and Trump discussed during their two hours alone — but that is part of Putin's problem. He evidently got Trump to nod along to the preposterous idea that Russian investigators should be allowed to observe interrogations of present and former senior U.S. officials on bogus political charges. So we can assume Trump swallowed a few other hooks on Syria or Ukraine or nuclear weapons.

Trouble is, those "important verbal agreements," as Russia's ambassador in Washington called them, are vulnerable to the same fate as the universally denounced investigation report. As Putin acknowledged in a speech Thursday, "powerful forces" oppose his deals with Trump. On Russia, Trump is a minority of one within his own government — and it is his minions, not the president, who will be charged with following up on those supposed deals.

What's coming could be intuited from the State Department's icy description of the summit. At her daily briefing Wednesday, department spokeswoman Heather Nauert began by condemning Putin's proposal to investigate U.S. officials — which Trump had called "an incredible offer" — as "absolutely absurd." Then she described the "takeaways" of Helsinki as the creation of three discussion groups among U.S. and Russian business executives, political scientists and the two national security councils. In other words, not to nothing. "These are certainly all modest proposals," she said.

Trump will continue to tweet, and he has invited Putin to Washington this fall. But if the Russians think there was a breakthrough on nuclear weapons, they'll have to explain it to John Bolton, Trump's national security adviser and one of Washington's foremost opponents of arms control. If they think Trump agreed to Putin's plan for Syria, they'll have to tell it to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, both of whom have repeatedly condemned Russia's intervention.

Putin might check in with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, who must have thought he had gotten everything he wanted from Trump during their Singapore summit last month. After Pompeo appeared for follow-up talks three weeks later, Pyongyang was left sputtering about "one-sided and robber-like" demands.

This is not to suggest Trump is pursuing a cleverly two-faced strategy designed to extract maximum from Putin and Kim. Rather, in his ignorance and naive zeal to strike deals with strongmen, he is making actual accords impossible. In the case of North Korea, that's bad for the United States, which is trying to alter the unacceptable status quo of the North's pos-

session of nuclear weapons. In the case of Russia, the big loser is likely to be Putin, who needs American help to escape the quagmires of Syria and Ukraine, not to mention the sanctions that are squeezing his inner circle.

Notwithstanding his World Cup swagger, Putin is weaker than he has been in some time. With Russia's economy stagnant, the government has been forced to slash pensions, a hugely unpopular move that sent Putin's approval rating crashing below 50 percent. Despite Trump, NATO just adopted a tough new plan to counter Russian aggression. And, despite the successes of pro-Putin parties in recent elections, the European Union just agreed to extend its own economic sanctions on Russia for six more months.

Putin undoubtedly hoped that, after Helsinki, Trump would start lifting U.S. sanctions. But Congress last year gave itself the right to vote down any easing. Before this week, it was possible to imagine Trump brazening his way through that obstacle with the help of an increasingly compliant GOP caucus. Following the uproar over his touting to Putin, he would be foolish to try anytime soon.

As for the decline and fall of the West, Putin would be wise not to count on it. Baking for the alliance remains overwhelming within the U.S. political establishment — the Senate voted 97 to 2 to endorse NATO as Trump left for Europe — and the public remains on board, too. Though Trump has swayed opinion in his base against NATO, Americans who favor the alliance still outnumber those who don't nearly 2 to 1. The West has its problems, but there's good reason to believe it will outlast Trump — and Putin.

Jackson Diehl is deputy editorial page editor for The Washington Post.

## Hunters should hate this proposed pro-hunting rule

By DAN ASHE AND JON JARVIS

Special To The Washington Post

The Interior Department, our former employer, is on the hunt — camouflaged in the guise of "conservation." Its target? Regulations that prohibit hunters from using cruel, unscientific and unethical methods to hunt Alaska's bears and wolves.

A taste of what the agency wants to allow under the Trump administration is shooting mother bears hibernating with cubs, luring bears with bait and killing wolves rearing young in their dens. And it wants to give the green light for such activities at National Park Service areas such as Denali and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

We are deeply disappointed in our former employer but realize that this does not reflect the judgment of career scientists or land and wildlife managers. This is politics, pure and simple — placing the bull's eye on animals when they are most vulnerable.

To our friends and colleagues in the "sportsmen" community, we ask: Is this really sportsmanship? Are we not better than this? Is this really what we want the more than 95 percent of Americans who don't hunt to see and think about hunters?

We each put in place regulations prohibiting these practices while serving as directors of the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, after spending years trying to convince the state of Alaska that its rules were unspornanlike. From 2005 to 2015, the federal government made more than 50 requests to the Alaska Board

of Game, which regulates sport hunting in the state, to limit predator sport hunting on national preserves and national wildlife refuges. The state ignored those requests, forcing us to step in to protect bears and wolves.

Congress rolled back the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regulations covering 77 million acres, and now the Trump administration wants to extend that to 20 million acres of national preserves, essentially requiring National Park Service managers to violate their stewardship responsibilities.

These proposals are not conservation. They are a throwback to 19th-century predator persecution, which is explicitly prohibited on our national park and wildlife refuges. These lands were not protected to become glorified game farms for unethical shooting expeditions; they were protected to provide havens for our nation's wildlife, including brown bears, caribou, wolf and moose. Extreme methods disguised as hunting are not conservation and are not in line with America's long tradition of ethical, fair-chase hunting.

Yet, that is exactly the snake oil that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is attempting to sell. He's a politician, so perhaps this is to be expected from him. But where is the outrage from sportsmen and sportswomen?

For goodness' sake, we know better. We know that preserving biodiversity is key to healthier lands, water and wildlife. Thriving bear and wolf populations benefit their natural ecosystems. Only science-based management can ensure that our hunting traditions are sustained by wildlife habitat and populations. The federal lands are such a rich bounty for hunters

and anglers.

For more than a decade, the Alaska Board of Game has escalated its efforts to reduce bear and wolf populations across much of the state, supposedly to increase moose and caribou populations. This has been scientifically disproved, time and again. We know how the story ends when we let so-called hunters take out their frustrations on bears and wolves in the name of "protecting" game populations. It doesn't change the reality for hunters: We lose habitat, access and public support.

As lifelong anglers and hunters, we are immensely proud of the unselfish role hunters and anglers have played in protecting and sustaining our nation's natural heritage and in supporting ethical practices that preserve and honor nature in all its diversity. Sportsmen and sportswomen have hunted and fished across the American landscape for far longer than our national parks and revered public lands have been protected. This has been a bipartisan relationship, honored and supported by Republican and Democratic presidents throughout the decades, beginning with our iconic public lands champion, Theodore Roosevelt.

The legacy of the ethical hunter is on the line. A nation of mostly nonhunters is watching. Will they see our community stand proudly and loudly for humane, science-based and responsible hunting? Will they see the opposite? Hunters should stand with the nonhunting community and demand that this policy be withdrawn.

Dan Ashe served as director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 2011 to 2017. Jon Jarvis served as director of the National Park Service from 2009 to 2017.

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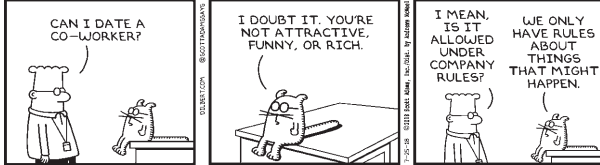
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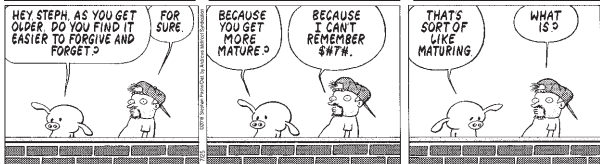
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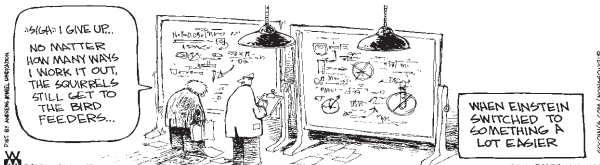
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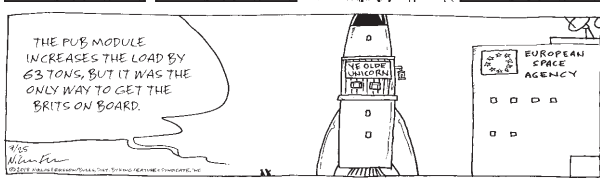
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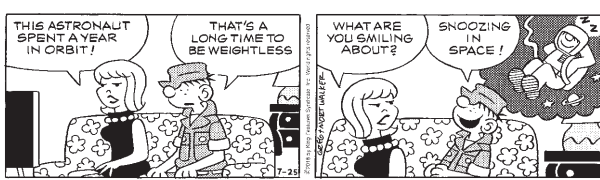
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Bizarro



# Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14			
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41				42				43			
				44				45			
50	51	52						53	54		
56								57			
59								60			

## ACROSS

- 1 "Nova" ailer
- 4 Irene of "Fame"
- 8 50%
- 12 Hearty quaff
- 13 Burden
- 14 "Born Free" lioness
- 15 Zodiac animal
- 16 Cabaret
- 18 Robber
- 20 Even so
- 21 Lugosi of film
- 24 Barn areas
- 28 Bar mixer
- 32 Source
- 33 — Lingus
- 34 Mortimer the dummy
- 36 "— tree falls ..."
- 37 Endure
- 39 School choral group
- 41 Charlatan
- 43 Old U.S. gas brand
- 44 Trench
- 46 Postage
- 50 Golf course building
- 55 Series of battles
- 56 Activist Parks
- 57 Swizzle
- 58 Yalie
- 59 "Closer" actor Clive

## DOWN

- 1 Section
- 2 Humdrum
- 3 Big rig
- 4 Come clean
- 5 Blackbird
- 6 Bad hairpiece
- 7 Wan
- 8 Browbeat
- 9 The whole enchilada
- 10 Baton Rouge sch.
- 11 "Terrif"
- 17 — Aviv
- 19 Flow out
- 22 Protracted
- 23 Fred's dancing partner
- 25 Thwart
- 26 Bean curd
- 27 Wild guess
- 28 Young whale
- 29 Tragic king
- 30 — Major
- 31 War god
- 35 Feast finale
- 38 Sikh headgear
- 40 Camp bed
- 42 "Gee, ya think?"
- 45 Pitch
- 47 Dumbstruck
- 48 Algeria's neighbor
- 49 Bluenose
- 50 — - Magnon
- 51 Despondent
- 52 Work with
- 53 Salt Lake athlete
- 54 Go astray

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	A	L	M		G	A	L	S		M	E	T
F	L	E	A		E	V	I	L		A	X	E
C	A	S	H		P	R	I	Z	E	S	P	A
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CNEV NY WX RNJR' BHKQR  
VLKQ LBYTDDX EQJRQ  
WTRZDQR, CTE ZDQLGDX EVHR  
NJQ HR WX ELTEQG-HJ-DLB.

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Today's Cryptquip Clue: B equals W




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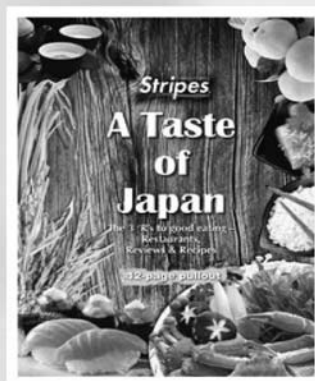
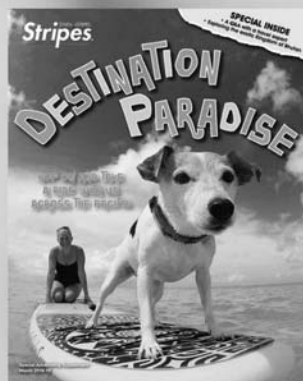
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## NBA

# Fresh: Cousins drawn to Golden State's hunger

## FROM BACK PAGE

well-established team and they could have easily been like, 'No, we don't need him.' But they were excited like a team that's never accomplished anything."

While his signing in Golden State drew mostly groans from around the NBA, Cousins didn't need much persuading to join the two-time defending champions. He has never played in the post-season, is coming off Achilles surgery in January and didn't attract much attention in free agency until signing a \$5.3 million, one-year contract with Golden State.

From the Warriors' side, it's a case of the rich getting richer. They've won the championship three of the past four seasons with an attack heavy on perimeter shooting and defense. In the 6-foot-11, 270-pound Cousins, they now have a dominant presence on the low block as well.

"It's a different dimension," Myers said. "It's not something that we've ever had as far as a low-post threat since I've been here. I'm excited. I hope he's excited."

Cousins averaged 25.2 points

and career highs in rebounds (12.9), assists (5.4) and minutes (36.2) with New Orleans before getting hurt. He has been frustrated by the tediousness of rehab but is being cautious in his approach.

"I'm progressing weekly, which is a positive," Cousins said. "As far as a timetable ... to be determined. I have to be smart about it. I'm in a unique situation, as well, where I'm not needed right away. Time is kind of on my side so I have a chance to get to 100 percent."

"Making it to the playoffs won't be an issue for this team, obviously. Once the basketball part comes, everything else will take care of itself."

As for his new team, Cousins has assimilated quickly. He played with several members of the Warriors while winning a gold medal as part of Team USA during the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Me and Draymond clicked right away," Cousins said. "We're two goofballs that like to joke around a lot. Same with KD and same thing with Steph (Curry). It's a great group. I think we'll mesh well."



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

DeMarcus Cousins of the United States dunks against China during the first half of an exhibition game prior to the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Cousins won a gold medal with the U.S.



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Cleveland Cavaliers forward Kevin Love, center, drives past Chicago Bulls guard Kris Dunn, left, and center Robin Lopez on Dec. 4. The Cavs signed Love to a four-year, \$120 million extension Tuesday.

## Briefs

# Cavs ink Love to 4-year, \$120 million extension

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — All-Star forward Kevin Love signed a new four-year, \$120 million contract Tuesday with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who are beginning anew following LeBron James' departure.

The 29-year-old just completed his fourth season with Cleveland, which was swept by Golden State in the NBA Finals. That loss was followed by James leaving in free agency to sign with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Love, who has been mentioned in trade speculation since arriving in Cleveland, now becomes the centerpiece of the franchise. He averaged 17.6 points and 9.3 rebounds last season when he made his fifth All-Star team.

Love said he is "super excited and I couldn't be happier. It's a big commitment for me and it's a big commitment from the Cavaliers."

Last season, Love revealed he has battled anxiety throughout his life.

## Mavs officially sign Nowitzki

DALLAS — Dirk Nowitzki is officially signed for a record 21st season with the Dallas Mavericks. The Mavericks announced Monday that they had re-signed the 13-time All-Star. That was their plan when they declined a team option on Nowitzki's contract at the start of free agency to create more room under the salary cap before signing DeAndre Jordan.

Nowitzki, a former NBA MVP who turned 40 last month, is set to become the first player in NBA history to play 21 consecutive seasons for the same franchise. The 7-foot German is one of six players overall, and the only international player, with more than 30,000 career points.

His \$5 million contract is the same amount he would have been guaranteed for 2018-19 for the second season of a two-year deal signed last summer.

Also:

■ The Mavericks acquired the rights to forward Maarty Leunen and cash from the Los Angeles Clip-

pers for two-way forward Johnathan Motley and the rights to guard Renaldas Seibutis.

Dallas also signed guard-forward Ding Yanyuhang, who has played professionally in China for seven years. Ding was with the Mavericks during the summer league last year.

## Free agent Ferrell joins Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Free agent guard Yogi Ferrell signed Monday with the Sacramento Kings.

The third-year guard spent last season with the Mavericks after splitting the previous year between the Nets and Dallas.

He has averaged 10.2 points per game for his career with 2.9 assists and 2.8 rebounds after going undrafted out of Indiana and also spending time on G-League assignments.

Ferrell scored 20 or more points five times last season for the Mavericks, posting a season-best 24 points on 9-for-11 shooting with six three-pointers in 38 minutes against Denver on March 6.

## Grizzlies send Martin to Magic

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — The Memphis Grizzlies sent forward Jarell Martin and cash considerations to the Orlando Magic in exchange for center Dakari Johnson and the draft rights to Tyler Harvey.

Martin, 24, played three seasons with the Grizzlies and averaged 6.2 points, 4.0 rebounds and 18.3 minutes in 142 games. The Grizzlies took the 6-foot-10 forward from LSU with the 25th overall pick in the 2015 draft.

Orlando is trading Johnson just three days after acquiring him from the Oklahoma City Thunder.

Johnson, 22, played 31 games for the Thunder this past season. The 7-footer averaged 1.8 points, 1.1 rebounds and 5.2 minutes.

The Magic selected Harvey with the 51st overall pick in the 2015 draft. Harvey, 25, played for Antibes in the French LNB Pro A during the 2017-18 season.



# MAJOR SCOREBOARD

## American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	71	31	.696	
New York	66	36	.643	5
Tampa Bay	51	49	.510	19
Toronto	46	53	.465	23½
Baltimore	40	59	.402	27½
Central Division				
Cleveland	45	53	.455	
Minnesota	45	53	.459	.8½
Detroit	43	59	.422	12½
Chicago	39	63	.382	19
Kansas City	39	63	.382	24
West Division				
Houston	66	36	.647	
Seattle	48	54	.469	7½
Oakland	58	43	.570	7½
Los Angeles	50	51	.499	15½
Texas	42	59	.416	23½

## National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	54	43	.557	
Philadelphia	44	53	.450	6
Washington	49	50	.495	6
St. Louis	50	50	.500	1
New York	40	57	.412	14
Central Division				
Chicago	41	58		
St. Louis	57	45	.559	2½
San Diego	50	50	.500	5
Los Angeles	50	50	.500	8
Colorado	53	46	.535	2½
Pittsburgh	39	59	.398	19
San Francisco	42	61	.408	15½
West Division				
Los Angeles	46	56		
Arizona	50	50	.500	1
Colorado	53	46	.535	2½
San Diego	50	50	.500	5
San Francisco	42	61	.408	15½

**Monday's games**  
 Boston 5, Baltimore 3  
 Minnesota 8, Toronto 3  
 Tampa Bay 7, N.Y. Yankees 6  
 Oakland 15, Texas 3  
 Detroit 5, Kansas City 4  
 Chicago White Sox 5, L.A. Angels 3  
 L.A. Dodgers 7, Philadelphia 6  
 Atlanta 12, Miami 1  
 St. Louis 4, St. Louis 5  
 San Diego 3, N.Y. Mets 2  
 Arizona 7, Chicago Cubs 1  
 Milwaukee 4, Washington 1

**Tuesday's games**  
 Boston at Baltimore  
 Minnesota at Toronto  
 N.Y. Yankees at Tampa Bay  
 Pittsburgh at Cleveland  
 Oakland at Texas  
 Kansas City at Kansas City  
 Houston at Colorado  
 Chicago White Sox at L.A. Angels  
 San Francisco at Seattle  
 Atlanta at Miami  
 Philadelphia at St. Louis  
 San Diego at N.Y. Mets  
 St. Louis at Los Angeles  
 Texas at Arizona  
 Chicago at Chicago  
 Washington at Milwaukee

**Wednesday's games**  
 N.Y. Yankees (Cesario 1-) at Tampa Bay (Duffy 6-7)  
 Pittsburgh (Tallent 7-7) at Cleveland (Bauer 6-6)  
 Detroit (Boyd 4-9) at Kansas City (Duffy 6-6)  
 Oakland (Jackson 1-2) at Baltimore (Perez 2-2)  
 Houston (Morton 11-2) at Colorado (Levy 9-7)  
 Chicago White Sox (Shields 4-1) at L.A. Angels (Skaggs 7-6)  
 San Diego (Richard 7-9) at N.Y. Mets (Oswalt 0-2)  
 Philadelphia (Buehler 4-2) at Philadelphia (Arrieta 7-6)  
 St. Louis (Flaherty 4-4) at Cincinnati (Bryant 7-7)  
 Washington (Roy 3-12) at Milwaukee (Pineda 1-1)  
 Arizona (Ray 3-2) at Chicago Cubs (Lester 12-3)

**Monday**  
**Athletics 15, Rangers 3**  
 Oakland **ab r h bi** **Texas ab r h bi**  
 Semien ss 5 2 1 Choo rf 1 0 0 0  
 Pinder lf 5 2 1 Wclm ph 1 0 0 0  
 Muncy 3b 2 0 0 Oler 1 0 0 0  
 Barreto 2b 1 0 0 Anderson ss 3 1 1 2  
 Muncy 3b 2 0 0 Barreto 3 1 1 2  
 M.Olson lf 4 3 2 0 Beltré dh 3 1 1 2  
 Pascotti rf 4 2 3 4 P.Rocha 3b 5 4 2 3  
 Kinsler 1b 4 2 3 0 Ruff 1b 4 2 0 1  
 M.Chmpm 3b 4 2 3 0 R.Chrcs 3 1 1 0  
 Kinsler 1b 4 2 3 0 Ruff 1b 4 2 0 1  
 Lucroy c 5 2 2 4 DShelds dh 3 1 1 2  
**Totals 44 15 18 3**  
**Texas** **002 000 000-2**  
 6, 2B—Semien (2), L.OB—C.J. Davis (3), P—Piscotty (27), Canale (1), Croy (14), Oler (1), Guzman (11), HR—Davis (24), Piscotty (13), M.Chmpman (11), Lucroy (2), Anderson (3).

**Los Angeles** **IP H R ER BB SO**  
 Anderson W-2.2 6 5 2 2 1 6 0  
 Pagan 1 1 1 1 1 1 0 0  
 Wendeiken 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0  
 Moore L-5.9 5 9 7 7 2 5 5  
 Texas 1½ 5 6 6 1 0 1 0  
 Claudio 4 4 2 2 1 1 0 0  
 HPB—by Hamels (Pinder), by Anderson (Troy). T—3:13, A—18,744 (49,115).

## White Sox 5, Angels 3

Chicago	ab	r	h	bi
Moncada 2b 4 1 1 0	K.Chun rf 5 1 1 1			
Yasny 3b 4 1 1 0	Simmons ss 5 0 0 0			
J.Abreu lf 4 2 2 0	TROUT c 0 0 1 1			
Palka lf 4 1 0 0	Adrian 1b 4 0 1 0			
A.Garcia dh 4 0 0 0	M.Lin dh 4 0 1 0			
Division dh 2 0 0 0	Ohlani dh 4 1 1 1			
L.Roria lf 3 1 0 0	Kimber 3b 4 0 0 0			
T.Anders ss 4 0 2 0	Moncada c 3 0 0 0			
K.Smith c 3 0 0 0	Vibena ph 0 0 0 0			
Engel cf 4 0 1 0	Martinez cf 0 0 0 0			
<b>Totals</b> <b>32 5 8 5</b>	<b>Totals</b> <b>33 7 7 3</b>			
<b>Chicago</b> <b>002 003 000-5</b>	<b>Los Angeles</b> <b>000 010 000-3</b>			
LOB—Chicago 7, Los Angeles 1. K.Calhoun (6), Fletcher (2), SB—L.Garcia (3), H.R.—Birela (4), Ohlani (8), SB—Moncada (10), V.Gonzalez (10), Engel (11), Trout (2), Kim (9), SF—L.Garcia (1), Trout (3).				

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago	5	5	3	3	4	5
Goins W-8	6	5	3	3	4	5
Cedeno H-5	½	0	0	0	1	1
Molina H-4	½	0	0	0	1	1
Fry H-10	½	0	0	0	1	1
Gomez H-2	½	0	0	0	1	1
Avila H-7	½	0	0	0	1	1
Soria L-15.8	1	1	0	0	1	2

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Los Angeles	5	4	4	4	3	4
Robles B-5.1	½	2	1	1	1	1
Alvarez	½	0	0	0	1	1
Anderson	½	0	0	0	1	1
Parra	½	0	0	0	1	1

Barrera pitched to 2 batters in the 6th.  
 Minaya pitched to 1 batter in the 8th.  
 HPB—by Robles (Gimble), by Anderson (35,285 (45,050)).

## Brewers 6, Nationals 1

Washington	ab	r	h	bi
Eaton rf 4 0 0 0	Broxton rf 4 0 0 0			
Rendon 3b 4 0 2 0	B.Phillip ph 1b 0 0 0 0			
Zimmerman 1b 3 0 0 0	Yelich lf 4 0 1 0			
Harper cf 4 0 0 0	Chapman 1b 3 0 0 0			
J.Soto lf 4 0 1 0	Brannan 1b 4 0 0 0			
Milwaukee 2b 4 0 1 0	W.Champh 1b 3 0 0 0			
T.J.Mer ss 4 0 0 0	Sladino ss 4 0 0 0			
Winters c 3 0 0 0	Kratz c 3 0 0 0			
Barnes 1b 3 0 0 0	Chapman 1b 3 0 0 0			
Ju.Mill ph 1 0 0 0	Ortiz ph 1 1 1 0			
Kelley p 1 0 0 0	Chapman 1b 3 0 0 0			
Kintzler p 1 0 0 0	J.Miller ph 1 0 0 0			
M.Adams ph 1 0 0 0	S.Miller ph 1 0 0 0			
<b>Totals</b> <b>33 1 5 1</b>	<b>Totals</b> <b>29 6 7</b>			
<b>Washington</b> <b>010 023 000-6</b>	<b>Milwaukee</b> <b>010 003 000-1</b>			
LOB—Washington 7, Milwaukee 4. E.Saladino (2), L.OB—Washington 7, Milwaukee 4, 2B—Saladino (4), 3B—Yelich (4), HR—D.Murphy (2), SB—Broxton (4), SF—Kratz (1).				

Washington	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Washington	5½	6	5	5	5	5
Gonzalez L-6.7	½	1	0	0	1	1
Solis	½	1	0	0	1	1
Kelley	½	0	0	0	1	1

Milwaukee	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Milwaukee	5½	2	1	0	0	9
Chacin W-3.8	½	1	0	0	1	1
Hader L-6.7	½	2	0	0	1	1
Woodruff	½	2	0	0	1	1
Adams	½	0	0	0	1	1
Barnes	½	0	0	0	1	1

Miller pitched to 1 batter in the 6th.  
 HPB—by Chacin (Zimmerman), T—3:20, A—26,073 (41,900).

## Dodgers 7, Phillies 6

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi
Pederson lf 4 2 1 0	C.Snta lf 4 0 0 0			
M.Mchdo 3b 5 1 1 0	Hoskins lf 4 1 1 3			
Wendelken 1b 4 2 1 0	Kinsler 1b 4 0 0 0			
Grandic 4 1 1 1	N.Williams rf 4 0 0 0			
M.Kemp rf 4 0 2 1	Francis 3b 4 2 3 2			
Kinsler 1b 4 0 0 0	Alfonso 1b 4 0 0 0			
Blenger c 5 0 0 0	Pouffre 2b 4 0 0 0			
Uteley 2b 4 0 0 0	Walding ph 1 0 0 0			
Stripling 2 0 0 0	D.Aevens p 0 0 0 0			
Rosario 1b 4 0 0 0	Hunter p 0 0 0 0			
Fryette ph 1 0 0 0	Hunter p 0 0 0 0			
Hudson 1b 4 0 0 0	L.Garcia ph 0 0 0 0			
Verdugo ph 1 0 0 0	Alfonso c 4 1 1 0			
<b>Totals</b> <b>35 7 10 6</b>	<b>Totals</b> <b>35 8 6 6</b>			
<b>Los Angeles</b> <b>010 040 001-7</b>	<b>Philadelphia</b> <b>010 040 000-6</b>			
LOB—Los Angeles 11, Philadelphia 12. 1, L.OB—Los Angeles 8, Philadelphia 2, 2B—C.Taylor (23), Valentin (5), 3B—Machado (2), HP—Pederson (14), M.Chmpm (2), Grandic (14), C.Taylor (12), M.Chmpm (17), Q.Herrera (18), Franco (2), SF—Muncy (2), Muncy (2).				

Los Angeles	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Los Angeles	4½	7	5	5	0	6
Rosario	½	0	0	0	1	1
Hudson	½	0	0	0	1	1
Alexander W-2.0	½	0	0	0	1	1
Jansen S-29.36	1	1	1	1	2	2

Philadelphia	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Philadelphia	2½	5	3	3	3	1
Rios	½	1	1	1	0	3
Hunter B-5.2	½	2	1	1	0	3
Dominguez L-3.½	½	1	2	2	1	3

W.P—Dominguez, T—3:43, A—33,753 (43,647).

## Tigers 5, Royals 4

Detroit	ab	r	h	bi
Martín cf 3 0 0 0	Mrrfeld 2b 3 1 0 0			
R.Rodríguez 3b 4 1 0 0	R.Herrera lf 5 1 3 0			
Cattini lf 4 0 0 0	S.Perez 1b 4 0 0 0			
Orndorff 3b 4 0 0 0	Brafcio lf 3 1 1 0			
A.Garcia dh 4 0 0 0	Griffin dh 3 1 1 0			
J.Jones ph 4 0 0 0	H.Dzier 3b 3 0 0 0			
Middle 1b 4 2 2 2	M.Kish ph 3 0 0 0			
J.McCnn c 4 0 3 2	Duda dh 4 0 2 3			
Jiggins ss 4 0 1 0	Orlando cf 3 0 0 0			
V.Baers lf 4 0 0 0	Gwyn ph 3 0 0 0			
A.Escrib 3 0 0 0	Adams ss 3 0 0 0			
<b>Totals</b> <b>35 5 10 5</b>	<b>Totals</b> <b>39 41 4</b>			
<b>Detroit</b> <b>000 000 000-5</b>	<b>Kansas City</b> <b>200 010 000-4</b>			
LOB—Detroit 13, 2B—V.Martinez (2), Adul (1), J.McCann (11), R.Herrera (5), Bonafacio (5), Moustakas (9), Butera (5), SB—Merrifield (18), SF—Merrifield (2).				

Detroit	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Detroit	4½	6	3	3	3	6
Alcantara	½	1	0	0	0	0
Coleman	½	1	0	0	0	0
Stumpf	½	1	0	0	0	0
Wilson W-2.3	1	1	0	0	0	0

Kansas City	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kansas City	6½	3	2	1	2	6
McCarthy H-7	½	2	0	0	0	0
Almon c 4 0 0 0	½	0	0	0	0	0
Hammer	½	2	0	0	0	0

HPB—by pitched to 2 batters in the 9th.  
 HPB—by Alcantara (Butera), by Alcantara (T—3:13, A—18,370 (37,903)).

## Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 1

Arizona	ab	r	h	bi
Jayr lf 3 1 1 0	Rizzo 1b 4 0 0 0			
Gidshim lf 5 1 2 1	Brvant 3b 4 0 0 0			
Pollock cf 5 1 2 1	J.Baez 2b 4 0 0 0			
J.Lamb 3b 2 1 0 0	Cratin ph 1b 0 0 0 0			
Discalzo 2b 3 1 0 0	Centras c 4 0 0 0			
Koch p 3 0 0 0	Zobrist rf 3 0 0 0			
Mattie c 3 0 0 0	Thapp lf 3 1 1 0			
Corbin p 3 0 0 0	Hyatt lf 3 0 0 0			
Almed phs-1 0 1	Densping 0 0 0 0			
<b>Totals</b> <b>34 7 9 7</b>	<b>Totals</b> <b>32 1 7 1</b>			
<b>Arizona</b> <b>000 001 000-7</b>	<b>Chicago</b> <b>000 000 000-1</b>			
LOB—Arizona 1, Chicago 1. 5, Chicago 4, Chicago 1, 2B—Mastins (6), L.H.P.—(13), HR—Goldschmidt (22), SF—J.Lamb 4.				

Arizona	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Arizona	7	6	1	0	0	9
De La Rosa	1	1	0	0	0	0
Brant 1 0 0 0	1	0	0	0	0	0

Chicago	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Chicago	3½	6	6	6	2	2
Brant 3b 3 0 0 0	½	0	0	0	0	0
Kash H-9	½	1	2	2	0	0
Schultz c 3 0 0 0	½	0	0	0	0	0
Alvarado 4-5.1	½	1	0	0	0	0

L.Severino pitched to 3 batters in the 6th.  
 HPB—by Warren (Wendelken), WP—Alvarado (T—3:26, A—14,670 (42,735)).

## Pirates 7, Indians 0 (6 innings)

2b	3	2	2	3	Gomes C	2	0	0	
erss	3	1	2	0	Naquin cf	2	0	0	
	27	10	7	0	Totals	22	0	0	
					040	300	7		
					000	000	0		
—Alonso (6), DP—Cleveland 2, LOB—									
—burgh 3, Cleveland 6, 2B—Mercer									
3B—G.Polanco (4), HR—Harrison									
	IP	H	R	E	R	BB	SO		
burgh	6	4	0	0	0	2	1		
land									
L12-6	4	9	7	3	1	0	2		
ister	2	1	0	0	0	1	2		
—Williams.	T—1:47.	A—24,925							
25).									

Red Sox 5, Orioles 3



## MLB

## Roundup

## Harrison, Polanco best Kluber, Tribe

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Corey Kluber struggled in his return while the Pittsburgh Pirates' hot streak showed no signs of letting up.

Josh Harrison hit a three-run homer and Gregory Polanco had a two-run triple off Kluber, and the Pirates beat the Cleveland Indians 7-0 in a six-inning, rain-shortened game Monday night for their 10th straight win.

The game was called following three rain delays that totaled 2 hours, 3 minutes. The first pitch was delayed 55 minutes, and a delay of 27 minutes followed in the third inning. The final delay was 41 minutes.

The Pirates have won 10 in a row for the first time since June 26-July 5, 2004.

"This is fun," Harrison said. "You've just got to keep riding it. We're getting good pitching, good defense, timely hitting. You win the game a lot of ways, and we're sticking to it."

Kluber (12-6), starting for the first time since July 12 because of a sore right knee, was charged with seven runs — three earned — in four innings. The reigning AL Cy Young Award winner gave up nine hits, struck out two and threw 72 pitches.

Kluber said the knee wasn't an issue, but he needs to work through some problems with his delivery and will watch video of his outing for answers.

"It's one less thing on your plate, so to speak," he said of the knee. "I feel fine physically. I feel like I can figure out the other things."

Although the Indians hold a comfortable lead in the AL Central, Kluber's problems are cause for concern. The right-hander received an injection after his last start and said at that time the knee had bothered him for a few weeks.

The Indians gave him 10 days to return with help from the All-Star break. Kluber was 10-

2 with a 1.99 ERA in his first 14 starts, but is 2-4 with a 5.21 ERA in his last seven.

"His fastball command was not where it usually is," Indians manager Terry Francona said. "That was probably a worry going in. He's such a creature of habit and his routine was different this time."

Trevor Williams (8-7) pitched six shutout innings. The right-hander allowed four hits and was credited with his first career complete game and shutout.

**Rays 7, Yankees 6:** Gary Sanchez failed to hustle on a pair of key plays, Jake Bauers hit a three-run homer and scored with some nifty baserunning, and host Tampa Bay beat Luis Severino and New York.

**Dodgers 7, Phillies 6:** Max Muncy, Yasmani Grandal, Chris Taylor and Joc Pederson hit solo homers and Alex Verdugo scored the tiebreaking run on a wild pitch in the top of the ninth inning, lifting Los Angeles over host Philadelphia in a matchup of division leaders.

**Red Sox 5, Orioles 3:** Rick Porcello scattered six hits over six scoreless innings, Mitch Moreland homered and Boston beat host Baltimore in a rain-delayed matchup between the best and worst teams in the major leagues.

**Diamondbacks 7, Cubs 1:** Paul Goldschmidt homered and Patrick Corbin pitched seven strong innings to pick up his first win in seven weeks, leading Arizona over host Chicago.

**Padres 3, Mets 2:** Jacob deGrom's winless streak reached five games as the major league ERA leader was hurt by a pair of errors behind him, and San Diego beat host New York in a matchup of teams with the worst records in the National League.

**Braves 12, Marlins 1:** Freddie Freeman hit his 17th homer and also doubled for Atlanta, which totaled 16 hits to beat host Miami.

**Brewers 6, Nationals 1:** Christian Yelich had a base-loaded triple and Jhoulys Chacin had another strong start to help host Milwaukee beat Washington.

**Athletics 15, Rangers 3:** Jonathan Lucroy hit a grand slam off his former battery mate and surging Oakland beat host Texas for its 24th win in 31 games.

**Twins 8, Blue Jays 3:** Logan Morrison homered and had three RBIs, Max Kepler added a two-run blast and Minnesota beat host Toronto, snapping a three-game losing streak.

**Tigers 5, Royals 4:** Jim Adduci delivered a two-run double in the ninth and scored the go-ahead run on James McCann's double as Detroit beat host Kansas City.

**White Sox 5, Angels 3:** Jose Abreu homered and drove in two runs, leading Lucas Gliofo and Chicago past host Los Angeles.



GARY LANDERS/AP

Cardinals starter Daniel Ponce de Leon threw a no-hitter through seven innings in his major league debut on Monday against the Reds, 14 months after a line drive in a Triple-A game fractured his skull.

## Dazzling debut

Ponce de Leon has no-no through 7 just 14 months after brain injury

By JOE KAY

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Daniel Ponce de Leon wasn't going to let a sore neck ruin his major league debut, not after all he's come through in the last year: The Cardinals' determined rookie shook it off and made St. Louis history.

Ponce de Leon was sensational 14 months after suffering a severe head injury, throwing no-hit ball for seven innings Monday night before Eugenio Suarez led the Cincinnati Reds' rally in the ninth for a 2-1 victory.

The 26-year-old right-hander was hit on the right temple by a line drive while pitching for Triple-A Memphis on May 9 last year, fracturing his skull and causing bleeding in the brain. He had emergency surgery followed by months of slow recovery.

Ponce de Leon was one of the top pitchers in the Pacific Coast League when St. Louis called him up Monday to help their injury-depleted rotation. With 10 family members cheering from the stands, he walked three and struck out three, threw 116 pitches and gave way to a pinch-hitter in the eighth with St. Louis up 1-0.

"I don't know if words can describe that," interim manager Mike Shildt said. "It's what's magical about this game and what we love about this game — stories like that."

Ponce de Leon prayed for calmness before his debut, went to the bullpen to warm up and hurt his neck on one pitch.

"I tweaked my neck in the bullpen and had a hard time looking toward home plate," he said. "I was a little nervous then."

The neck was fine once the game began. Ponce de Leon joined the Dodgers' Ross Stripling as the only major leaguers to throw at least seven no-hit innings in their debuts since 1908.

Given his high pitch count, Shildt had no thought about leaving him in.

"We weren't in a situation where he would have been able to finish that game with a no-hitter," Shildt said. "It was his time."

Jordan Hicks gave up a one-out single up the

**"I don't know if words can describe that. It's what's magical about this game and what we love about this game — stories like that."**

Mike Shildt

St. Louis Cardinals interim manager

middle by pinch-hitter Phillip Ervin in the eighth for Cincinnati's first hit.

Suarez's two-out, solo homer off Bud Norris (3-3) tied it 1-1. The closer then loaded the bases on a pair of singles and a walk, and pinch-hitter Dilson Herrera singled to end the Reds' losing streak at four games. Jared Hughes (3-3) pitched the ninth.

"We don't mind waiting until there two outs in the ninth to score some runs," said Tucker Barnhart, who singled to help load the bases. "It makes it a little nerve-wracking on the bench."

Matt Carpenter had a pair of hits that extended his streak, including a double in the fifth inning off Luis Castillo. Yadier Molina followed with a single for his 17th RBI against the Reds this season, the most by any major league player against Cincinnati.

Carpenter homered in six straight games last week, a streak that ended on Sunday. He's 14-for-28 in the last eight games.

**In the interim:** The Cardinals are 3-4 under Shildt. The Reds are 41-41 under interim manager Jim Riggleman.

**Rookie show:** The Cardinals plan to start three rookies in the series, the first time they've had three rookies start in a row since September 1997 when Mike Busby, Matt Morris and Manny Aybar pitched against the Cubs. The last time they had three straight rookie starters before September was in August 1959, when Bob Gibson, Ernie Broglio and Marshall Bridges faced the Phillies, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.



TONY DEJAK/AP

The Pirates' Josh Harrison celebrates after hitting a three-run home run during the second inning Monday against the Indians in Cleveland.

NFL

# Pick 6: Intriguing new offensive coordinators

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

**H**ead coaching changes get the most attention, and new guys normally decide who their coordinators will be.

For 2018, most offensive coordinator alterations came from incumbent coaches.

## Todd Haley, Cleveland

A former head coach with the Chiefs who spent the past six seasons in a love/hate relationship with Ben Roethlisberger in Pittsburgh, Haley faces a whole new set of challenges with the Browns.

Sure, he and Roethlisberger often quarreled, but they also won lots of games with a potent, dynamic attack. If you have a short memory, let us fill you in: Cleveland has won a single game, in total, over the past two seasons. Its offense has ranged from anemic to putrid.

So Haley steps in with the charge of grooming (or pushing rapidly) the first overall draft pick, Baker Mayfield, as the starting quarterback. The head man in Cleveland, Hue Jackson, also has a background on offense and some ideas of his own on how to move the ball. Of course, Jackson also has that 1-31 record.

"That is what appealed to me — the challenge and the people I was going to be working alongside of," Haley said when hired.

Best of luck, Todd.

## Norv Turner, Carolina

One of the most successful OCs in NFL history — not so much as a head coach, with a 114-122-1 record — Turner tries to re-establish Cam Newton as an elite passer. Newton remains a dangerous runner and creator, but he's never developed the fundamentals to be a true pocket passer, and as he gets later into his career, the 2015 league MVP needs those basics in his repertoire.

Turner has been an effective QB whisperer for decades, going back to helping Troy Aikman become a Hall of Famer. Turner has a strong relationship with Panthers coach Ron Rivera, and will get lots of leeway in running the offense, particularly in resurrecting the deep passing game.

"I think Cam gets that Norv is here to help," Rivera said.

## John DeFilippo, Minnesota

DeFilippo moves from the Eagles, where he masterfully helped Carson Wentz reach prominence, then was of immeasurable aid for Nick Foles in the Super Bowl run. DeFilippo was handed an expensive bauble, too.

The Vikings signed Kirk Cousins to the largest guaranteed contract in NFL history after discarding their three quarterbacks of 2018, including Cass Kenum, who helped Minnesota reach the conference title game. With short-term 2018 sensation Dalvin Cook returning to the backfield, a solid and deep receiving group and a strong line, expectations in the Twin Cities are for the Vikes to take that next huge step.

"He's been a great communicator, and I love his passion for the game," Cousins said of DeFilippo.

## Joe Philbin, Green Bay

From 2007-11, with the transition from Brett Favre to Aaron Rodgers a part of it, Philbin was the Packers OC. The team's success, including a Super Bowl title, got him the head job in Miami, where he went 24-28.

Following two seasons working in Indianapolis with the offensive line, Philbin Part 2 begins on the tundra.

Rodgers has been somewhat vocal about changes in Green Bay that didn't quite meet his approval. So the symbiosis between Rodgers and Philbin will be critical.

"Change can be really good ... any time you're in a situation where you've had the same type of things going on for a number of years, it's nice to

Some former coordinators moved up: Matt Nagy from Kansas City to Chicago, Pat Shurmur from Minnesota to the New York Giants. Some OCs were canned: Pittsburgh's Todd Haley, who landed in Cleveland; Mike Shula, going from the Panthers to the Giants. Others are returning to familiar ground: Joe Philbin in Green Bay, Greg Olson in Oakland.

Many simply got promoted.

Here are six intriguing new offensive coordinators:



RON SCHWANE/AP

Cleveland Browns offensive coordinator Todd Haley has his work cut out for him. The Browns are 1-31 the past two seasons.



MINE ROEMER, ABOVE, AND DAVID T. FOSTER III, THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER, RIGHT/AP AND TNS

Joe Philbin, above, begins his second stint as Green Bay's offensive coordinator, while Norv Turner, right, takes over the same duties in Carolina after moving over from Minnesota.

change it up in some positions, yeah," Rodgers said.

## Randy Fichtner, Pittsburgh

Roethlisberger should have a more peaceful co-existence with Fichtner, and the offensive tempo figures to speed up.

This should be the best attack in the AFC, anchored by RB Le'Veon Bell and WR Antonio Brown. Fichtner needs to ensure it is close to the top given the question marks on defense.

"He knows what we do well," Brown said. "He



knows some things we can work on and some things that [we can do] better. But we're in great hands with him."

## Matt LaFleur, Tennessee

LaFleur rapidly has gone from QB coach in Atlanta — Matt Ryan had his MVP season with LaFleur on hand two years ago — to overseeing the Rams' offensive turnaround. Having such success with Jared Goff and Todd Gurley in LA, he

heads to Nashville, where the passing game has been dormant.

If Marcus Mariota is to become a franchise quarterback, it must happen soon. LaFleur doesn't have a lot to work with in Music City, but he didn't seem to in SoCal, either. And unlike with the Rams, where coach Sean McVay called many plays, the offense is LaFleur's baby now.

"This is something when you get into the coaching profession, you're always looking for the next step," LaFleur said.

NFL



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Above: New Green Bay Packers defensive coordinator Mike Pettine watches linebacker Oren Burks work out during rookie camp in Green Bay, Wis. The Packers need an aggressive scheme on D to match the Aaron Rodgers approach with the ball. Below: Romeo Crennel is back in Houston for a second stint with the Texans

## Pick 6: Defensive coordinator moves could be key

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

When longtime coordinators move from one defense to another, it's noteworthy.

There were several such transfers for this sea-

### Romeo Crennel, Houston

If there was a Hall of Fame for coordinators, Crennel would have the credentials for first-ballot entry.

He replaces new Titans coach Mike Vrabel in a job Crennel held from 2014-16, pretty much when J.J. Watt was becoming the best player in the league. Crennel inherits a unit that fell apart with Watt and Whitney Mercilus injured and little help from the offense when Deshaun Watson wasn't available.

But the talent is there, particularly if Watt is healthy and back to form, teaming with Mercilus, Jadeveon Clowney, Benardrick McKinney and newcomer Tyrann Mathieu. Crennel seems the right guy to turn those ingredients into a tasty dish.

"I don't think you forget what it takes and what you need to do," Crennel said. "It's all about evaluating, motivating and trying to put a good plan together and get the guys to execute and play it."

### Paul Guenther, Raiders

If Guenther can simply keep up with Jon Gruden's nonstop enthusiasm, he will have performed well.

He must find a pass rush — it doesn't hurt having Khalil Mack on hand — and better coverage in the secondary, which has struggled for years. He's working with a few journeymen who can't be expected to make a huge impact.

Gruden figures to get the offense rolling, so Oakland's fortunes could rest on Guenther's work.

"Paul Guenther's defense, it's very aggressive,"



said new middle linebacker Derrick Johnson, the veteran who came over from the Chiefs. "So many different looks. The onus is really on the linebackers to learn a lot of stuff."

### Dean Pees, Tennessee

Pees actually does replace a Hall of Famer, though Dick LeBeau made the Canton shrine for his playing career, not his incredible success as a coordinator.

Pees has been around, too, coaching since 1979 and about to turn 69. He's won Super Bowls with the Patriots and Ravens, takes over a group that can stop the run, but needs to be

son, including former head coaches Romeo Crennel, back to Houston, and Mike Pettine, now in Green Bay. Dean Pees, as successful as nearly any assistant coach over the past two decades, landed in Tennessee.

Here are six intriguing new defensive coordinators:

much more stingy against the pass. If Watson and Andrew Luck are healthy, that adds to the challenge for Pees.

At least Tennessee added CB Malcolm Butler and DT Bennie Logan, plus a pair of linebackers early in the draft. This group will be aggressive and the Titans come off a playoff appearance, so expectations are raised.

"Just having two legends as coaches on the defense, man, I was blessed," All-Pro safety Kevin Byard said.

### Mike Pettine, Green Bay

The Packers need an aggressive scheme on D to match the Aaron Rodgers approach with the ball. Pettine surely will pick up the tempo and take more chances than Dom Capers did.

Whether he has the talent on that side of the ball is another matter. The Packers almost seemed in desperation mode when they re-signed Davon House and Tramon Williams for the secondary.

If Muhammad Wilkerson gets his mojo back after signing, then not living up to his big contract with the Jets, Pettine might upgrade a defense that finished 26th in points allowed.

"In the new defense we're getting ready to hit this season strong," star linebacker Clay Matthews said, "and hold up our end of the bargain."

### Ken Norton Jr., Seattle

Norton spent five seasons working under Pete Carroll with the Seahawks, handling linebackers and overseeing the rapid development of Bobby

Wagner into an All-Pro.

The Legion of Boom has been torn asunder, though, and there are serious questions where a pass rush will come from. Norton must find the answers as Seattle goes through roster upheaval, a difficult chore.

But he does have Wagner, Frank Clark and K.J. Wright.

"We went through a lot those first three years and obviously I paid close attention when he left and we stayed in touch," Wagner said. "When I heard he was coming back I had a lot of joy and a lot of excitement because I felt like we had a little bit of unfinished business. It's good to have him back..."

### James Bettcher, NY Giants

Bettcher replaces a popular coordinator, Steve Spagnuolo, who was doomed by replacing the fired Ben McAdoo in December and not seeing any improvement from the Giants. Like Spags, Bettcher is a go-get-'em type who did a lot with under-the-radar defenders in Arizona.

Gone is inconsistent sack master Jason Pierre-Paul, but Olivier Vernon and Damon Harrison remain up front, with the linebackers getting a boost thanks to adding Alex Ogbertree. If Bettcher can help the secondary get stingier, he will have done a good job.

"What it is about is playing relentless," Bettcher said. "The game is about playing hard. The game is about playing physical. The game is about playing smart."



## SPORTS



## Impressive debut

Cards' Ponceleon throws no-hit ball through seven innings » **MLB, Page 29**



STEPHEN M. DOWELL, ORLANDO SENTINEL, ABOVE, AND BEN MARGOT, RIGHT/TNS AND AP

Above: The New Orleans Pelicans' DeMarcus Cousins hangs from the rim last year during a Dec. 22 game against Orlando. Right: Cousins holds his new jersey during a media conference last week in Oakland, Calif., after signing a one-year, \$5.3 million deal with the Golden State Warriors. The Warriors have won three of the last four NBA championships.

NBA

## FRESH START

Cousins relishes new opportunity

By MICHAEL WAGAMAN  
Associated Press

**D**EAMARCUS COUSINS spent his first eight seasons in the NBA chasing two things — peace and the playoffs.

After signing with Golden State as a free agent, the four-time All-Star center has no doubts he'll finally find both, and that those will help dispel the notion that he's a bad teammate.

"Just a chance to play for a winning culture," Cousins said Thursday. "I also have a chance to play with some of the most talented players of this era. Those two things alone, that pretty much sums it up."

Looking relaxed while sitting on a stage next to Warriors general manager Bob Myers, Cousins was at ease during a news conference at the team's practice facility.

Golden State's fiery big man seems content in his new surroundings and wants the hardware to show for it.

"Every guy said let's go get another championship," Cousins said. "They are a

**Just a chance to play for a winning culture.'**

**DeMarcus Cousins**  
Warriors post

SEE FRESH ON PAGE 26



Tour de France riders affected by tear gas » Page 27



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